ARVILLE CASTLE.

AN

HISTORICAL ROMANCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

While fancy roams in fiction's various paths,
To cheer awhile the solitary hour;
Let none forget, numberless truths abound,
To raise the soft compassion of the soul;
To try our sensibility's full stretch;
And rouse philanthropy to act its part.

VOL. II.

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RAVELLI CASTLE.

A ROMANCE.

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CHAP. XII.

Deep are his ſighs, his viſage pale; his dreſs
The garb of woe, and habit of diſtreſs.
Thus cares on cares his painful days conſume,
And bow'd old Leonard's head with ſorrow to the tomb.

As in a tide of tears their ſorrows flow,
To add new horrors to their world of woe;

HOMER's Odyſ.

Their Edith is by violence torn away,
Nor can the moſt heart-rent ſighs reclaim the lovely maid!

——Waiting for day,
Indignant in the dark receſs they ſtand,
And from exceſs of phrenſy locked their brains.
Fierce in his look, the gallant Baron glow'd,
Fluſhed in his cheek, or ſallied in his blood.
But ſhould I all recount, the night would fail,
Unequal to the melancholy tale.

ODYSSEY.

DURING thoſe different tranſactions in which the unhappy Raymond and his friend were partly

engaged while immured in the extreme horrors of the robbers priſon, (of which the next chapter will further treat,) and Julius, and his fair protegees were ſailing for Britain, it will be neceſſary to remind the reader of the receſs of Arville Caſtle. The baroneſs had been attacked with a malignant fever, which had nearly proved fatal. So long time had elapſed, and ſhe had not heard of Ellen, of Alice, nor of the child Edwin, that the grief, which ſhe ſecretly indulged, had brought on the illneſs above mentioned: but the tender and unremitting care of the baron, of Iſabella, and Edith, who endeavoured to outvie each other in their attention, indiſpenſibly neceſſary in her ſituation, and the friendſhip of the Druid, who ſtill continued to enliven their ſociety, and, during the indiſpoſition of the baroneſs,

baroneſs, had become an inmate, finding his preſence abſolutely neceſſary to the baron, who, when abſent from the baroneſs, was inconſolable for the loſs he ſeemed likely to have reaſon ſoon to lament. The ſovereign herbs of the Druid, however, at length, proved effectual, and ſhe recovered to the unſpeakable joy of all; though her recovery was ſlow, and a languor took poſſeſſion of her frame that appeared likely to continue for her life.

They found part of the caſtle ſo intirely forſaken, that the baroneſs, and baron, after her illneſs, frequently ſlept in their own apartment: indeed, they proceeded ſo far as actually to raiſe a communication with a conſiderable part of the caſtle which was ſepa-

rated from the other at the termination of a large gallery, and the party feared not to walk there even by day, and which they found to be of infinite ſervice to their health. They could from the turrets of the caſtle plainly diſcover the ſituation of the garriſon, and made their obſervations ſo clearly, that they were in no danger of diſcovery, as no one, for a long period of time, ever approached the interior of the caſtle. This was to them indeed as a gift from heaven, and as ſuch received with the moſt devout thankfulneſs and adoration to that Being, who had ſo far protected them, when all the ſurrounding Britons had ſhared ſuch untoward fates. They indulged themſelves freely in the apartments of the caſtle; and except their fire, for that they did not venture to injoy, they

they ſpent their hours in tolerable tranquillity. Edith, however, ſecretly deſired the return of Leodine, and the reſt anticipated the arrival of Ellen.

Edith had been ſtrangely aſtoniſhed at her firſt introduction into the caſtle; but it had been a moſt delightful and convenient change, as they participated the glorious light of day, of which they had ſo long ſuffered a deprivation: it aſſiſted, in an eminent degree, thoſe works which were intended as preſents to the young men on their return; Edith always painting in the higheſt colours, the tranſcendent qualities of her brother, and his ardent love for Iſabella, notwithſtanding he ſuppoſed her numbered with the dead, and his reſolution to lead a life of celibacy for her ſake, ſo that Iſabella began to add to her former obligations

for the preſervation of her father ſomething more than friendſhip, and ſhe ſincerely joined her friend in wiſhing his return. Iſabella, true to her father's reſolution, had never diſcloſed the knowledge of Ellen's exiſtence; Edith had never ſuffered the paſſion of Raymond for Ellen to paſs her lips; and Iſabella ſtill believed Edith's attachment to that noble youth; ſhe certainly eſteemed him as a brother, but Eldred Arville had taken a poſſeſſion of her heart that time could not efface; and herſelf and Leodine had followed the determination of Raymond, to remain true to their firſt love, and to break their friendſhips only by the iron hand of death.

LEONARD, the faithful Leonard, now began to decline; worn out with long attention to his maſter and family.

Being

Being the only one who could with safety administer to their convenience and wants, he would perhaps, ere now have disposed of the greater part of the valuable property brought by Ellen, but their frequent and safe excursions had made them bold with their own, and consequently preserved a considerable part of that treasure they had so providentially enjoyed through Ellen's heroism. The baron observed Leonard's decline with secret sorrow; for in him he had found a faithful friend; and his little family were equally sensible of their obligation to him—he was revered and esteemed by all: but alas, all was of no avail! he had spent himself in their service, and he now required back some of those attentions he had so chearfully, while able, bestowed on them: nor did he want in vain: he was treated as a father by

the young ones, and as a beloved brother by the elders. But long and painful was his journey to that place, from "whoſe bourn no traveller "returns." The Druid's friendly aid afforded him very little ſuccour; and nature, at length bending beneath age and ſickneſs, yielded his honeſt ſoul into the hand that gave it. Never was man more affectionately lamented by the diſconſolate family; his laſt rites were performed as ſolemnly as circumſtances would poſſibly admit: his body was embalmed with richeſt ſpices and odoriferous herbs, and conſigned to a part of a ſhrubbery belonging to the caſtle: the little family attended, and the Druid performed the laſt ſad offices. They returned ſilent and oppreſſed with unfeigned ſorrow, and ſpent the reſt of that day in ſecret meditation. It left a ſettled melancholy

melancholy on them, to be deprived at once of a faithful friend, a valuable ſervant, and a ſocial companion; one, to whom they were all indebted for their preſent comforts, and even exiſtence; this could not fail to affect the tender feelings of a grateful family; and they long paid a daily viſit to his grave, and poured out their ſorrowful ſenſations on the occaſion.

They were ſoon at a loſs for many neceſſaries and comforts they had been accuſtomed to; and the baron began to think how he might venture to acquire them himſelf with ſafety: but Edith and Iſabella aſſiſted the baroneſs in diſſuading him from the hazardous attempt. Iſabella would make uſe of the apparel of Leodine; and Edith inſiſted on her being much more adequate to the taſk. "I," ſays

ſhe, "have all my life been in the "habit both of travelling and pur-"chaſing, while you have been ſcarce "on the outſide of the bounds of this "caſtle." The Druid, whoſe wiſhes were to have performed the taſk, lamented his ignorance, and declared, "If Edith would once go with, and "inſtruct him in the art of pur-"chaſing, from which their functions "always excluded them, that he "would henceforth take the place of "Leonard." Edith gladly conſen-ted; and the baron at length gave a reluctant aſſent. Attired in the habit of Leonard, they ſet off on their expe-dition, and performed their com-miſſion wonderfully well. But alas! who can foreſee the calamities to which we are ſubject! On their re-turn, through a ſpacious foreſt, near the cave of the Druid, they were ſeized

by

by two ruffians in ambuſcade, and forcibly carried to an obſcure part of it, where they bound them to a tree, and inſiſted on their informing them where they were going. The Druid, with great preſence of mind, promiſed to lead them to his retreat if they would ſpare their lives, particularly that of his ſon; they promiſed every thing, and unbinding the Druid, he led the way, one following him. Edith was left in the care of the other, and ſtill bound. The Druid led to the tree, the ruffian following, while he was loudly calling for his ſon; but he was ordered to proceed on pain of death. He entered the tree; and the villain, aſtoniſhed at the receſs to which it led, now wiſhed for his companion. The Druid offered to fetch him with his ſon, and to prepare a repaſt for their refreſhment; this

he agreed to, and reclined on a bed of leaves till his return. But on quitting the interior of the cavern, the Druid ſhut a door, formed ſo as to evade, if neceſſary, any ſearch that could be made, either to penetrate in, or to eſcape from, ſo wonderfully was it contrived both by nature and art to anſwer the purpoſe of ſelf-preſervation. Had he returned with Edith, which was what he wiſhed, he could ſecure the other villain; and if he could obtain Edith, the other could not poſſibly purſue him. He haſtened therefore back to the ſpot where he had left her; but, to his diſtraction, ſhe was not there. No trace could he ſee of her, or the ruffian. "Alas!" cried he, "perhaps he has diſcovered "her ſex, and ſhe may this moment "be ſuffering the greateſt of human "evils! Oh, why did I permit, or

"deſire

"deſire ſo much purity to venture
"where no place is ſafe from ſuch
"a lawleſs banditti as now reigns pre-
"dominant in Britain! Alas, how
"ſhall I appear before the baron
"Arville, and his family? How
"ſhall I dare return without my
"precious charge? Ah me! that
"ever I was born, to add to his al-
"ready innumerable misfortunes this
"of depriving him of another daugh-
"ter!" He ran in the utmoſt de-
ſpair round the foreſt, calling to the winds, for none anſwered his voice; and night approaching, he drew near the receſs of Arville caſtle, where he ſat down, venting the bittereſt exclamations on his head, and calling aloud on death to releaſe him from his troubles. The baron, with his wife, and daughter had ventured near the mouth of the cave, fearing, as night drew

near,

near, leaſt any miſhap ſhould befal them. The baron heard a voice, and the ſilence of the evening ſoon enabled them to recognize the voice of the Druid. Fear would have drew them back, yet fear puſhed them on the danger that at that hour attended every ſtep: but there were but three of them, and they determined, let the event be what it might, to ſhare the ſame fate; for in vain the baron perſuaded his wife and daughter to retire, while himſelf ſought the cauſe of the Druid's apparent affliction. They haſtened their ſteps, and drew near the voice; the baron hallooing to meet him, and to his infinite ſurprize, was anſwered by a wiſh, that the baron would inſtantly ſheath his ſword in his diſtracted heart. The moſt dreadful apprehenſions immediately took place in the breaſts of the unhappy trio;

they

they feared the beauty of Edith had enſnared the heart of this laſt friend; that ſhe had fallen a prey to his libidinous deſires; and that he was now repenting the atrocious deed. Little at that moment did they know the purity of his heart: but the baron ſoon met him, and fearfully inquired the cauſe of his lamentation, while the ſame breath aſked for Edith. "Alas! my lord, "that is the cauſe of my trouble! I "have loſt her, and dare not face "you; inſtantly, I beſeech you, diſ-"patch me, and rid the world of one "who is a burden to himſelf, and to "the earth." The cries of the baroneſs and Iſabella now refounded through the extenſive foreſt; and the echo of their own voices ſometimes made them fancy they heard that of Edith. The baron more collected, though not leſs diſtreſſed, begged the Druid

to

to inform him by what diſaſter they had parted; while he on his knees related the horrid tale. The baron eſteemed the man, and willingly would believe the recital; while fear for Edith's honour rent his heart with a variety of ſtrong emotions. He had ſworn to Leodine to become the father and the protector of Edith; he could not juſtify to himſelf his want of prudence in putting her under the protection of any other, though that other was his only friend; he however inſiſted, for their mutual ſafety, that he ſhould retire with them, there to concert thoſe meaſures which might tend to a diſcovery of their loſt and dear companion. The Druid complied; though never was man under greater afflictions than himſelf: he ſaw and felt without anger their uncharitable and unjuſt fears, and in

conſulting

conſulting what was to be done he offered to face the greateſt dangers, as ſoon as day ſhould dawn on them. The baron and baroneſs were loſt in thought, bordering on deſpair; but Iſabella, whoſe faculties were all alive in thinking on her friend, propoſed diſguiſing and arming themſelves, and repairing to the cavern of the Druid, where the villain was confined, who poſſibly might inform them where to find his companion, and their friend. This advice was judged of the higheſt importance; and they immediately prepared for the expedition. They repaired to the caſtle Arville, where arms of every kind were in plenty; but the Druid would have declined, that they might the readier accompany him. The baroneſs and Iſabella were dreſſed in long cloaks, peculiar to the times, and an helmet on each head, with

with ſide arms and bows; but the baron would inſiſt on his arming like himſelf, at all points, that they might be able to cope with an equal number of banditti, ſhould it be their fate to meet them. Thus equipped, they impatiently waited the dawn of morning, and the baroneſs and her daughter emerged from the recefs all full of doubts, leſt they never more ſhould enter it, eſpecially with that degree of happineſs, which they had taſted ſince the return of the baron and the company of their beloved Edith. They followed with firm ſteps the Druid in mournful ſilence, and met no interruption till they arrived at the hoſpitable tree, which ſheltered Ellen on her firſt expedition, and where ſhe firſt became acquainted with the Druid. The family now beneath its friendly ſhelter felt the influence of the

the Druid's good diſpoſition; and his behaviour to Ellen, after ſhe had diſcovered her ſex and placed ſuch confidence in him as to open her whole heart to him—the care and affection he evinced, when he knew not ſhe had a father, eraſed thoſe hard impreſſions, which the impulſe of the moment had occaſioned; and they all, ere they entered his receſs, acknowledged the injuſtice of their ſuſpicion, and pleaded his pardon. They each embraced him with tears of affection, and followed him in to the door of his manſion.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Good Heaven, whoſe darling attribute we find,
Is boundleſs grace and mercy to mankind,
Abhors the cruel; and the deeds of night,
In wond'rous ways, reveals in open light.
Murder may paſs unpuniſh'd for a time;
But tardy juſtice will o'ertake the crime.

DRYDEN.

As the baron, his lady, and family approached the private door which ſecured them from danger, they overheard the man lamenting his imprudence for permitting himſelf to be decoyed into a den, where he muſt probably end his days in miſery for want of food: "but how many wretches," ſays he, "have I aſſiſted to make

"miſerable,

" miſerable, by torturing and confin-
" ing them by the moſt diabolical
" means? Oh, that ever I wandered
" from the paths of virtue and ho-
" neſty! I now have met with my
" well-earned deſerts; nor deſerve
" pity; but ought to ſuffer the ex-
" tent of human miſery!" The apparent repentance of the ruffian made them retire, to debate what beſt to do: whether to offer him terms, or forcibly to endeavour to learn his place of reſidence, where they now doubted not but Edith was conveyed. It was determined to offer him his life, if he would confeſs where his companion might be found. The baron and Druid inſtantly made the trial, and the man ſeemed overjoyed to hear a human voice, which he had deſpaired of, and intreated to be liberated, promiſing to declare all he knew.

knew. The Druid now informed him, that they were an armed party, and that if he made the leaſt reſiſtance his life muſt pay the forfeit: but if he would immediately unarm, and deliver his weapons to him, he ſhould experience every indulgence his compliance ſhould merit. He aſſured them, on the honor of a man not yet quite loſt to every deſire of ſocial life, to do, and be all they could poſſible expect from one in his unhappy ſituation. The aperture was immediately opened, and the arms delivered to the Druid. He was then ordered ſternly by the baron to approach, and inform him where his companion might be found, who had left the foreſt, with the youth that accompanied the owner of this cavern. "Alas!" replied he, "I fear, where the youth is conveyed

"I can

"I can inform you of, but of his re-
"covery I can give you no hope;
"unleſs he becomes one of as nu-
"merous a banditti as ever infeſted
"or curſt any country, and is bound
"by oaths, which none but demons
"can partake." The baron eagerly inquired its ſituation, extent, and number, which was anſwered by the unhappy man, and which indeed left them no hope. Their lamentations were ſo loud, and their agitations ſo violent, as to draw tears from the man; who appeared, from an abandoned ruffian to be quite humanized. He told them, if they would rely on him, that he would return and learn if they had yet reached the dreadful reſidence he had deſcribed; if not, he would yet hope the unhappy youth might be recovered, but on this little

dependance

dependance could be placed, as they generally flew immediately with their prey to thoſe abodes of horror.

The deſcription he gave was the ſame as has been related in a former chapter. They could not object to the trial, though they could put but ſmall reliance on the word of a man, who was an accomplice in the atrocious crimes perpetrated there. In the courſe of his narration he deſcribed the inauguration, as it is called, of a member of the community, and deſcribed two noble youths, who had had particular favour ſhewed them by their king, but who, in ſpite of all their dreadful tortures had heroically braved all their hoſt, and were now confined in the caſtle, juſtly called the Caſtle of deſpair; ſo many murders had been committed in it,

that it was a prey to the moſt horrible ſupernatural appearances, and by which the unhappy victims conſigned there were kept in conſtant terror. The baron aſked the time and deſcription of thoſe youths, and both correſponded with the time and perſons of Raymond and Leodine. If the diſtreſs of this amiable, but unhappy family were before inconceivable, it was now indeed unutterable. "Wretch that I am," exclaimed the baron, "thoſe moſt dear "to me have I drove to deſtruction! "Ah, Raymond! ah, Leodine! my "ſons, my dear ſons! would I were "now with you, to expiate my "crime! While you were with me, I "threatened to withdraw my favour "from you: fool that I was, of what "conſequence was an old man, be-"reft of all earthly bleſſings; of what

"con-

" conſideration was my favour? If I " had ſuffered them to ſtay, they " might have cloſed my eyes in peace " —have made, during this time, a " happy ſociety; and Edith, the hap- " leſs Edith, had been ſtill under the " protection of a brother! Hear me, " friend," cried he, " I will become " your prize; I will depend on you " to convey me where I may once " more embrace my ſons, and obtain " their pardon, ere I cloſe my eyes " in death: for no longer can I bear " this weight of human woe!" " The " remedy," replied Raynauld, for that was the name of the culprit, " will be fatal to you. Believe me " when I aſſure you I will convey any " intelligence to them, and return " you a faithful account of their ſitu- " ation. If poſſible I will alleviate " their afflictions; but if you once

"appear in thoſe helliſh regions, un-
"leſs you become a partaker of the
"crimes of the banditti, you will
"never be permitted to ſee them."
"No, my lord," replied the Druid,
"your life muſt be preſerved for the
"ſake of thoſe amiable relatives you
"have ſtill to protect. I will accom-
"pany him, and perhaps with the
"aſſiſtance of Raynauld, and the
"protection of Heaven, we may be
"able to effect what has hitherto
"ſeemed impoſſible. I have a ſtrong
"preſentiment that thoſe works of
"darkneſs are near a concluſion. I
"augur much from my heroic
"friends; and you may be of in-
"finite ſervice to aſſiſt us with thoſe
"things which circumſtances may
"require, and which Raynauld will
"acquaint you with from time to
"time. Raynauld, what proof can

"we

" we have that you will be faithful?"
" Alas!" cried he, " I have nothing
" to ſtake; my word and actions are
" all I can offer. However, as a
" pledge, I promiſe you on the mor-
" row to inform you of Raymond and
" his friend, and bring you their
" wiſhes: this is the ſtrongeſt pledge
" I can give of my future fidelity.
" But to effect this, I muſt be doubly
" cautious, nor return without plun-
" der; for once ſuſpected, I ſhould
" ſuffer torments unheard of only in
" thoſe regions, where torments are
" ever new." The Druid, however, would not be refuſed, and accompanied Raynauld as his priſoner. The Arville family parted with him with many tears, and their united prayers aſcended to Heaven for their general welfare. They ſpent the night in this cavern, and determined to wait the

return of Raynauld. They had not diſcloſed their own ſituation, as it was of too much conſequence, and might prove an aſylum for all, if fortune ſhould favour their releaſe.

The Druid, ere his departure, taught the baron both how to ſecure himſelf and how to eſcape through a ſubterranean paſſage, if Raynauld ſhould prove perfidious on his return; therefore they continued there, offering up their unceaſing prayers, till the voice of Raynauld, the following night, arouſed them to life and action. The baron enquired if he was alone; and cautiouſly admitted him, cloſing the aperture: but they had no reaſon to doubt his fidelity; he brought indubitable marks of his miſſion from the unhappy friends, who had, with ſorrow, learnt that Edith

had

had become an inmate of this accurſed abode. They were, however, ſomewhat relieved by the aſſurances of Raynauld, that he hoped to gain many proſelytes to his ſcheme for their deliverance. The Druid was at preſent in his probation in a cell, and Edith in another; happily her ſex had not been diſcovered, which was a favourable omen. The Druid was determined to ſubſcribe to their infernal creed, as by no other means could he be of any ſervice. If poſſible, Edith was to be inſtructed to perform the ſame infernal rites; but the difficulty lay in conveying their wiſhes to her, and the horror of the ſcene would naturally enough deter her from embarking in ſo dreadful an expedition. It was well judged, that execrations and oaths ſo forcibly obtained could be by no means binding,

otherwiſe than ſelf-preſervation required the performance. Raymond and Leodine ſent their beſt wiſhes and prayers to the baron and family, though they had no conception of whom his family were compoſed; and promiſed to aid every effort of Raynauld for the wiſhed-for bleſſing of liberty, and the reſcue of their beloved Edith.

It is now neceſſary that we ſhould relate the introduction of Edith into this vale of miſery. The ruffian, who ſtopped with her at the tree, conſidering his companion perhaps overcome or enſnared, thought it the beſt way to ſecure his prize, and immediately unlooſed, and led her forcibly to the neareſt entrance of their territories. So many travellers had diſappeared on the high road which croſſed this immenſe foreſt, and never more

more been heard of, that it was become almoſt deſerted; hence ſcouts were ſent in different parts to ſeize on all that ſhould fall in their way, and to give notice when a force was required to take a large party or cavalcade. Their former profeſſions of holding any place ſacred was now done away; and all fell victims within their reach. Of this number were the Druid and Edith; and thoſe things which they had purchaſed for the unhappy Arville family, became plunder for thoſe voracious harpies. She was hurried immediately to her dungeon, and paſſed the night in prayer and ſupplication to that Power who alone can protect the helpleſs and needy. Towards morning fatigue got the better of her fears, and ſhe ſunk into a ſweet ſlumber; and thought ſhe beheld Raymond and her

brother breaking through myriads of banditti to her reſcue; and ſeizing her from their lawleſs hands, mounted aloft in air, and conveyed her to Arville Caſtle, where joy appeared to reign abundantly, and happineſs beamed on every countenance. Juſt at the pleaſing moment her priſon doors flew open, and ſhe was dragged before their king or chief, and the queſtion was immediately aſked, If ſhe would inliſt under their banners, and enjoy all the pleaſures of life; or whether ſhe would ſubmit to become a priſoner for life, and had fortitude to bear the tortures inflicted by mortals in the day, and thoſe of fiends by night? She heroically anſwered, Her ſoul ſhould never be contaminated by doing that at which her nature recoiled; but ſhe was ready to bear all the tortures they, or any power

power could inflict, ſo ſhe could juſtify her actions in the ſight of that Power, who created, and till the preſent moment had protected her; and ſhe ſtill believed would not deſert her. She was then put into a kind of cage; and ſaw, to her unſpeakable ſurprize, the Druid, whom ſhe had flattered herſelf, had eſcaped, brought, and the ſame queſtions put to him. He immediately choſe what had been predetermined, to become one of them. On which the air was rent with ſhouts of joy; while every thing was prepared for the ſame ceremony which took place before Raymond and Leodine. It is eaſier to conceive than deſcribe the horror and conſternation of Edith at this fearful ſight. When ſhe ſaw the victim bleed, and the Druid ſhe ſo much revered clad in garments of human blood ſpilt on-

purpoſe to decorate and inveſt him, with the inſignia of an infernal community, ſhe turned away her head; and though he in vain ſought to meet her eye, ſhe would not encounter his, but ſteeled her heart againſt him, as ſhe ſuppoſed, for ever. The ceremony over, they repaired, as before, to the field; and the day was ſpent as uſual. The poor Druid, hurt at the looks of Edith, took a very ſmall portion of the pleaſure intended for him; and pleading indiſpoſition, was allowed to retire to the apartment of the women: but this not ſuiting the ſterility of his manners and conſtitution, he was appointed to the education of ſome of their children, in which occupation he hoped to be abundantly uſeful, and ſeemed well ſatisfied in this department. As to Edith, ſhe was conveyed to the caſtle

of

of deſpair, and conſigned to the joint tortures of men and devils: but ſhe felt not all the power intended.

RAYNAULD was happily at this poſt, and ſecured Edith that night from their wicked devices. He informed her what was done, and of her brother's ſituation ſo near her; but warned her to conceal her knowledge from all her fellow ſufferers. He aſſured her, that means were planning for their deliverance; but it muſt be a work of time. He informed her why the Druid had commenced one of their party, and of his voluntary coming for her ſake to thoſe horrid manſions; alſo of the part he himſelf had taken, and the baron's aſſiſtance, by his means, to be uſed in their behalf. He exhorted her, above all, to conceal her ſex; which known, would

would be her certain deſtruction. Edith heard all with ſilent aſtoniſhment; and when he had concluded, gratefully thanked him for his intelligence; begged him to communicate her tendereſt concern, when next he ſaw the baron and his family, for the ſorrow ſhe had involuntarily occaſioned them; and hoped, ſhe might rely on his word that means were uſing for the termination of their miſery. It was a ſtrong conſolation to be near her brother, whom ſhe ardently longed to ſee. He aſſured her ſhe would enjoy that happineſs the ſucceeding day, but any emotion might be fatal to their project, and deſtroy their future hopes of happineſs; that if poſſible, in a few nights, they ſhould enjoy, unobſerved, an interview. Edith could ſcarce refrain embracing even Raynauld, who profiting

fiting by her excefs of joy, refpectfully kiffed her willing hand. "Adieu, "my friend! my guardian angel!" exclaimed fhe, as he withdrew from this midnight fcene; and fhe flept a few hours free from all difturbances.

The morning light exhibited a fcene which affected Edith's mind beyond the power of expreffion. Her eyes fought eagerly the perfon of her brother; but the innumerable objects which prefented themfelves around her, prevented her from obferving him, or Raymond, for a long time. The agonies of every perfon in fight feemed exceffive, and fhe was at a lofs to find a reafon for all the defpair fhe witneffed: but their tortures were fo various, and fo ftudied, that it would but difgrace human nature by a repetition—daggers privately fixed;

chains

chains that were inſupportable; the fleſh of victims ſuppurated, and in many inciſions made in the tendereſt parts on purpoſe to produce infectious wounds—in ſome limbs diſlocated, and all with ſome horrid pang, produced by means unnatural and abominable. Edith herſelf was bound by the hands and feet; and could barely ſtand to ſcrutinize thoſe among whom ſhe hoped to recogniſe her brother. She at length thought ſhe eſpied Raymond: Raynauld had ſealed her lips: but, alas! how altered was he! pale, emaciated, loaded with chains, and himſelf the picture of deſpair! She ſhed a ſilent tear. "Alas!" ſhe ſighed, "my brother!" She preſently ſaw Raymond ſpeaking to a perſon, whom ſhe never could have recollected for her brother; but the ſpeaking eye of Raymond was alone

alone capable of directing that of Leodine, who ſoon perceived, to his unſpeakable ſorrow, his beloved ſiſter. If Raymond was altered beyond her knowledge, how much more was ſhe ſurprized at beholding her dear Leodine, apparently drawing near his end, while ſhe ſo near was incapable of affording him any comfort, or relief. She needed not the aid of chains or daggers to torment her; her feelings were ſuch, that no power could affect her body: her mind being ſo ſuperior, all other ſufferings ſeemed perfect bliſs. In this ſtate we will leave them; and return to Julius, and the fair partners of his voyage.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

The friends already think their toil is o'er,
Their hopes already touch their native ſhore.
Alas! far otherwiſe the Fates declare,
Far other journey firſt demand their care.
Joy touch'd their ſouls; their ſouls were joy'd in vain,
For angry Neptune rous'd the raging main.
The wild winds whiſtle, and the billows roar;
The ſplitting bark the furious tempeſt tore:
They pale and penſive ſtand with cares oppreſt,
And ſolemn horror ſaddens every breaſt.

HOMER's Odyſſey.

THEY travelled by eaſy ſtages till they arrived at the ſea ſhore, where an elegant veſſel was provided for their reception. Alice at times ſeemingly rejoiced, and continued at intervals to pour forth her gratitude to her

her preſervers. They ſailed for ſome days pleaſantly enough, when on a ſudden the ſhifting of the wind brought on a tremendous ſtorm, which laſted ſeveral hours, and they were in imminent danger of periſhing. Driven from their latitude, and being in diſtreſs, they made ſignals, which were anſwered from the ſhore, and ſome boats put off to their aſſiſtance; their compaſs was alſo loſt; and they were totally unacquainted with their ſituation: but to their unſpeakable ſurprize, they found the horrors of the ſea nothing equal to their preſent diſtreſs, they were boarded by ſome Moors of Africa's barbarous ſhores, and carried with all their treaſures, to that inhoſpitable coaſt. This was to Julius worſe than a death-ſtroke. Juſt at the moment he flattered himſelf he ſhould receive the reward of all

all his toil, and to reſtore happineſs to a long ſuffering family, to be plunged from the bleſſings of liberty into a dreadful ſlavery, and torn from all his ſoul held dear to ſhare the ſame untoward fate, and perhaps all of them be ſeparated for ever, racked his ſoul with unutterable woe. One expedient alone remained, and that was the offer of a ranſom more than equal to their worth as ſlaves: but the aſſurance, whether it would be accepted was to him a ſource of ſilent grief. He uſed all the rhetoric he was able in conſoling the lovely ſiſters with the hopes of freedom, and this new misfortune appeared to have rouſed all the faculties of Alice into their proper functions; and ſhe no longer ſhewed any marks of derangement. She wept at the feet of Julius, and embraced his

his knees, and on the boſoms of Ellen and her ſon poured out her fervent ejaculations for the reſtoration of her patron and deliverer. They were not long however indulged even in this cruel ſuſpence, but were hurried before the chief of the Barbary ſhores, who eyed them attentively, and aſked, what property had been preſerved? Julius related what treaſures he had on board; and hoped that circumſtance would intitle them to the mercy of ſo juſt a prince. The barbarian's vanity was ſomewhat flattered by this compliment; and Julius was aſſured that he ſhould be treated as became his rank. They were ordered to an apartment in his palace, and refreſhments were ſent from his table. The next day they were brought again to his preſence, and received freſh aſſurances

assurances of his protection. Julius was at no loss to guess at his meaning, and offered him a mighty ransom if he would suffer his vessel to be repaired, and permit it to convey him to Britain. The Dey could not well comply; his favorite sultana had seen the vessel, and intreated it of him: he had given his word, and could not recede. Julius only wished it to convey him to Britain, manned by Moors that might return immediately with it to Africa. He would leave his attendants, on promise of good usuage, as hostages, till the articles were fulfilled, and his ransom sent from Rome. This with a powerful Roman was not to be refused; but as a short time was necessary to repair the vessel, they were at liberty to see, on that barren and burning part of the globe, whatever could tend to their amuse-

ment

ment: the Dey even condeſcended to accompany them to ſome parts of his mercileſs dominions, and particularly thoſe of his Seraglio and gardens. He paid the ladies abundance of Mooriſh compliments, and aſſured them of his wiſhes, that they might have added to the number of his beauties, whom he ſaid were not to be equalled in the world. He introduced them himſelf; and there indeed they beheld the exquiſite beauty of all nations, collected for the pleaſures of a barbarian. On the countenance of ſome a degree of happineſs appeared; on others a pleaſing melancholy. Others there were that beheld his appearance with the moſt pointed horror and diſguſt; while ſome exhibited the moſt beautiful forms in every amorous and indelicate geſture to attract his particular notice.

tice. Glad were thoſe friends when they took leave of this houſe of infamy; and were much better entertained when he led them into his gardens: but this was alſo a ſcene of ſorrow: they were cultivated by ſlaves of every nation, who appeared bending with grief or ſickneſs under the fatigues of their employment. Young Edwin was ſportively playing, inſenſible to the ſorrows with which he was ſurrounded, and had ſtrayed to ſome diſtance from the party, when a ſlave, earneſtly looking at him, ſuddenly exclaimed, "Oh, God! is it "poſſible I can be deceived? Is it "not the counterpart of my brother? "It is! it is his every look! his every "action! Dear youth, from whence "are you?" "From Rome," returned Edwin, "now, but a native of "Britain." "Have you a mother?"

"Yes, and a father too; ſee them "yonder; they will preſently be "here." "A father too!" ſilently repeated the ſlave; "forbid it Hea-"ven! Excuſe the impertinence of "a ſlave; but what is the name of "your mother?" "Alice, of the "houſe of Arville," replied the youth. "Do you know any of the "Arville family?" "Alas! I once "was well acquainted with it, till the "cruel Romans demoliſhed that, and "every other Britiſh houſe, with "their inhuman wars." "But there "you are miſtaken," cried Edwin, "for to that houſe are we now go-"ing, to be reinſtated in our rights. "The Baron Arville yet lives, and "we ſhould, ere this, but for a great "ſtorm, and an African ſhip, which "brought us here, have embraced "the venerable man, who doubtleſs

"impa-

" impatiently awaits our arrival.
" But my father Julius is paying a
" mighty ranfom to that black
" prince; and is to give him the fine
" veſſel we came in, to liberate us
" from this inhoſpitable ſhore."
" Your father Julius!" again ſoftly repeated the ſlave: but the expreſſion did not eſcape the notice of Edwin; who as ſuddenly exclaimed, " and
" why do you ſeem to think hardly
" of Julius being my father? I never
" knew another, and to me he has
" proved a noble, generous, and ten-
" der father." " Of that real relation," replied the ſlave, " I know you was
" long ſince deprived; but may I, dare
" I ſpeak to your mother, without
" offending your father, Julius?"
" Doubtleſs you may; my father is
" too great and good to refuſe any one
" what his power can grant: I will

"conduct them to you: he always "pities the unfortunate." Away flew Edwin to his mother. "Dear mo- "ther, will you believe, there is a "ſlave yonder who knew me the in- "ſtant I approached him, and ſays "he knew once the houſe of Arville, "and intreats that you would permit "him the honour of ſpeaking to "you." Alice's frame ſhook, while Ellen's countenance alternately changed. They drew near the ſlave, who was ejaculating to himſelf, "and does my "father live? Oh, bleſſed tidings! "but how will my brother ſuſtain ſuch "a weight of joy and ſorrow? I dare "not tell him his father lives, his ſon "almoſt in his arms, and his wife, his "beloved Alice, for whom he has been "ſo many years a mourner, in the "arms of another. Oh! that a man- "date from Heaven had deprived

"him

" him of his miſerable exiſtence ere " he had lived to experience a ſhock " ſo intenſely ſevere! The horrors " of ſlavery we have long borne, and " ſtill with patience could bear; but " this, his gentle, though manly na- " ture, never can ſuſtain." The ſlave approached the Mooriſh prince, and in a graceful attitude on one knee, the other dragging an enormous chain, ſupplicated his permiſſion to hold a few minutes conference with the ladies who were before him; he nodded, as graciouſly as he could, his aſſent. The perſon of the ſlave commanded the reſpect of Julius; he ſaw it was not Raymond; his mein was noble; his countenance open, and his whole deportment beſpoke him of a ſuperior claſs. He approached Alice with awe and reſpect. The burning heat of Africa had tinged his natural

colour for one nearly tawney; however, no ſooner had he come near to Alice, than Ellen, who was veiled, giving a violent ſcream, fell ſenſeleſs in the arms of the Moor, who caught her from falling on the earth. The ſudden cries of Ellen arreſted the attention of the ſlave, who on ſeeing her veil removed, diſcovered his ſiſter Ellen. He had no more attention, at this moment, for Alice; he ſeized Ellen with violence, and almoſt ſmothered her with his ardent embraces. Julius knew ſhe had a remedy which ſhe always carried about her; and applied it with ſucceſs; and on her recovering, found herſelf faſt locked in the arms of her brother Eldred. The unſpeakable rapture that enſued may be eaſily gueſſed. Ellen had found a brother, long thought dead. Alice the brother of her huſband, and Edwin

an

an uncle. The Moor immediately ordered his chains to be removed, and Julius ſhared the momentary pleaſure. All bleſſed the adverſe winds but Eldred; and he preferred ſlavery to the preſent appearances. Ellen and Eldred, now in ſome degree recovered from the ſurprize which ſo ſudden a rencontre had occaſioned, retired a few paces from the reſt, who were loſt in wonder at ſo unexpected an event.

CHAP. XV.

Oh! thou, who freeſt me from my doubtful ſtate,
Long loſt, and wilder'd in the maze of fate,
Be preſent ſtill! oh, Ellen! in our aid
Proceed, and firm thoſe omens thou haſt made.

O'er all his boſom ſecret tranſports reign,
And a glad horror ſhoots through ev'ry vein.
Thebais of Statius.

Gladly the precious treaſure he receives,
Nor longer doubts, tho' noble Julius gives.

ELLEN and Eldred were eager to learn each others adventures; and Ellen firſt would know by what providence he had eſcaped, as they had

ſuch certain, as they thought, information of his death, with that of Edwin. "Alas!" ſays he, "my ſtory "at this time is too long and unintereſting to repeat: ſuffice it to ſay, "I yet live; and though the joy of "ſeeing you, my ſiſter, next to that "of embracing my parents, is the "greateſt bleſſing Heaven could beſtow, yet there is an alloy, which, "at the moment my happineſs was "created, blaſts it in the bud." "Ah!" cried Ellen, "what means "my brother?" "I mean, what "your brother muſt feel to behold "his heaven in poſſeſſion of another!" "Explain this myſtery, "which racks my ſoul with incomprehenſible doubts, who is in poſ-"ſeſſion of your happineſs? Julius, "I am certain, will finiſh the work "he has begun: you will no more

"return

" return to ſlavery." " I will not " doubt it," cried he. " Julius may " be all you and I may wiſh; but for " Edwin, ſiſter, for Edwin my ſoul " bleeds!" " Edwin, my love!" cried Ellen, " in what have you diſ- " treſſed your new found uncle? I " flatter myſelf you will be as dutiful " to him, as if you had known him " all your life." " I ſhould be ex- " ceedingly unhappy," ſaid Edwin, " if my uncle ſhould doubt my af- " fection: I love him equal to Ju- " lius." " Accurſed Julius!" vehemently ſobbed Eldred: " bane of our " happineſs!" " Rather ſay, my " brother, the whole of our happi- " neſs is centered in him." " If " yours, my ſiſter, was centered in " him, we might indeed be happy: " but that Alice ſhould be his, drives " me to deſpair!" " Forbid it Hea-

"ven! what means my brother? I "ſhould never have thought that El- "dred Arville would wish to become "the huſband of his brother's wi- "dow." "Surely, Ellen, you are "affected with madneſs. I always "thought that Edwin was your dar- "ling brother; yet you can tamely "ſee another partake his bed, and "approve the adulterous deed; and "ſpeak in raptures of the infernal "perpetrator. It's enough. I re- "nounce you as my ſiſter; I will "conceal this eternal diſgrace from "my brother; and as we long have "lived ſo now will we die in ſlavery, "unheeded, and unpitied." "Stop "Eldred," exclaimed Ellen; and ſeizing him forcibly, exclaimed, "what do you mean? does Edwin "live? my brother Edwin?" "Yes, "wretched girl! he lives; but on

"pain

" pain of falling by my hand evade
" his ſight: not for millions would I
" ſuffer him to behold his faithleſs
" wife! Therefore hide your dimi-
" niſhed heads, and never more ap-
" proach this ſcene of miſery! Let
" not my father know that we ſtill
" live! Let not his days be embit-
" tered with thoughts of us!" Ellen was almoſt overcome with grief, her tears could find no utterance. "Does " Edwin live, and ſhall I not ſee " him? No; rather would I partake " his ſufferings, and die with him in " ſlavery. Alice faithleſs? No; ſhe " is as pure and chaſte as the falling " ſnow: not an impure thought " dwells in her breaſt." "But Ju-" lius," exclaimed he, again. "Well, " for Julius I ſincerely grieve; and " yourſelf will not, with all your pre-" judice, deny him your pity." "He

" is

" is the huſband of Alice," returned he. " No, my brother; there I find " is the foundation of all your fears. " He is not her huſband. I will not " ſay it is not his fervent hope; but " yourſelf ſhall witneſs the greatneſs " of his ſoul."

Ellen ſent Edwin to requeſt the favour of Julius's company apart, as they had walked a conſiderable diſtance from each other: at the ſame time Edwin was told to ſtay with his mother till they joined companies, and not to mention the converſation that had paſſed, which required to be diſcloſed with caution. Edwin flew, and Julius was ſoon of their party. Ellen gracefully preſented her brother Eldred to Julius, and Julius to her brother. Julius congratulated him on his hopes of deliverance, and expreſſed his

his happineſs at being inſtrumental to it. He ſaid many kind things to Ellen on her recovering a long loſt brother; and declared the felicity he ſhould feel on preſenting him to his father. Eldred expreſſed his grateful thanks; and Ellen addreſſed Julius as follows: "My lord, our felicity is "yet incomplete, and it is alone in "your power, next to Heaven, in "whoſe hand you are the avowed in-"ſtrument, to reſtore happineſs to us "and to our whole family: but, my "lord, it requires a ſacrifice which "can only be made by you: no other "could be equal to the taſk: it de-"mands all that magnanimity, that "ſuperior generoſity, that true for-"titude of ſoul which has diſplayed "itſelf on ſo many occaſions——"

"Ceaſe, my dear Ellen, thoſe flat-"tering compliments, which do not

"belong

" belong to me; and tell me at once " the ſacrifice you expect. You know " there is nothing that I would heſi- " tate to do in my power (though in- " deed now I am almoſt powerleſs) " to reſtore peace and happineſs to " all that is dear to you." " Pardon " me, my lord," ſhe continued; " and I will tell you, that Alice is " the ſacrifice required; unleſs you " give her up, our happineſs is in- " complete; and we ſhall ſtill be, if " poſſible, more miſerable than ever!" Julius replied, " You know my reſo- " lution; I will ſtill abide by it. If " Alice rejects me; or if I could ſup- " poſe I had not full poſſeſſion of all " her affections, I never would ac- " cept her hand on the ſcore of gra- " titude." " That," ſaid Eldred, " is all the boon I aſk. Her huſ- " band, my brother, ſtill lives. He

" knows

"knows not yet the happineſs that "awaits him; and I, till this bleſſed "moment, was undetermined, whe-"ther he ever ſhould have known "that it exiſted." "The huſband "of Alice ſtill lives!" repeated Julius, "and Alice not yet know it? "May Heaven preſerve her intellects "in that moment of pleaſing trial; "more pleaſing to my ſoul than even "the hopes of happineſs I had "planned to myſelf on poſſeſſing "her." Eldred fell at his feet, and embraced his knees, while tears ſtole down their cheeks. Ellen aſſiſted in the pleaſing, but melancholy joy; and faintly articulated, "Did I not "tell my brother of the greatneſs "of Julius's ſoul?" Eldred warmly embraced his ſiſter; and the party proceeded in queſt of Alice.

FORTU-

FORTUNATELY Edwin and his mother had accompanied the Moor into a diſtant walk; and Ellen, anxious to fold her darling brother to her heart, deſired Eldred to conduct them to him. The news he had to impart was of importance enough to haſten the feet of Eldred to the preſence of his brother, to whom he preſented Julius, as a noble Roman, who had commiſerated his ſituation, and purchaſed his liberty; and that, informing him he had a brother, he had kindly come to offer him his aſſiſtance and friendſhip. Edwin, who had beheld with ſurprize his brother free from ſhackles, now began to pour forth his thanks to Julius, who, ſtopping him, cried, "Rather thank this "fair lady, at whoſe ſuit I intereſt "myſelf in each of your behalfs," and preſented Ellen to him, who removing

moving her veil, diſcovered to his aſtoniſhed eyes the perſon of his beloved ſiſter, who had ſcarce found patience ſufficient to keep herſelf from his arms, and now threw herſelf on his neck. "Gracious heavens!" cried Edwin, "am I intranced, or do I in-
"deed behold and embrace my El-
"len? Tell me, Eldred; have I my
"ſenſes? Do you alſo behold Ellen
"Arville?" "It is no phantom," ſaid Eldred: "nor is this the greateſt
"bleſſing Heaven has in ſtore for
"you. You have ſtill, I truſt, a fa-
"ther and mother reſerved to bleſs
"us." "Unexpected happineſs!" cried he; "but tell me, Ellen, have
"I a wife or child?" "Both!" ſaid Julius; "but let not the great
"effuſion of joy overpower you.
"Your wife is under my protection:
"I will away to the Moor, and pro-
"cure

" cure your liberty; and will alſo
" prepare your wife for an interview,
" while Ellen informs you of the cau-
" tion neceſſary to be obſerved."

Julius haſtened after the Moor; and ſent Edwin to embrace his father. Struck with wonder at the amazing likéneſs in the two Edwins, Julius, in ſilence, exclaimed, " What a happy
" father of ſo amiable a child! Yet
" why ſhould I ſelfiſhly envy you that
" bliſs of which you muſt be ſo truly
" deſerving? I will for the future
" endeavour to ground my happineſs
" on the baſis of yours. What ſuf-
" ferings have ye not undergone,
" with all my endeavours to prevent
" and avert thoſe calamities in your
" family? But the Supreme Go-
" vernor of all things has evidently
" brought me here to haſten a con-
" cluſion

" cluſion of what I ſo ardently and
" ſo long wiſhed to perform. Here
" have I found the real heir of the
" houſe of Arville groaning under a
" weight of chains, and woe—here
" am I going to bleſs that fair one,
" on whom my affections were chaſte-
" ly and firmly fixed, in reſtoring a
" loſt huſband to her arms, and a
" lovely child to a real father. I will
" forego my own happineſs, and ſtill
" be their friend and protector, till all
" ſhall be reſtored of which my am-
" bitious country has robbed them."
Theſe were his thoughts, till he joined the Moor and Alice, whoſe eager eye ſpoke unutterable things: but Julius underſtood them. " Great
" prince," ſaid he, " I have another
" boon to aſk: it is a day of wonders.
" We have found a brother, whom

" you

"you have kindly freed from his "chains; and to you, dear Alice, I "transfer the favour I would beg of "the prince. On your knees you "will cheerfully aſk the boon I "I want." "Can I," ſaid Alice, "flatter me not with a falſe hope; "can I crave one only bleſſing? Dare "I hope my Edwin, my huſband "lives?" "You may ſafely hope," replied Julius; "and it is this great "prince alone can make you bleſt." Alice was in a moment at his feet; while Julius ſecretly ejaculated a prayer for her continuing thus ſenſible. The Moor raiſed her, and promiſed to grant her huſband's liberty. He led her into his palace, determining to be a witneſs of their firſt interview. He ſent a ſlave to conduct them to his preſence; while Julius endeavoured

to

to compoſe Alice for a meeting, for which ſhe was juſtly impatient, Edwin, on the other hand, repeated the words, "Your wife is under my pro-
"tection; I will prepare her for an
"interview." "What does he mean,
"my Ellen? has Alice put herſelf
"under the protection of any man?
"and ſhall Edwin Arville contami-
"nate his houſe by receiving a pol-
"luted wife? forbid it heavenly pow-
"ers! I will not unman myſelf by
"ſeeing her, though all my happi-
"neſs be blaſted in a moment."
"Great God!" cried Ellen, "are
"both my brothers become inſenſi-
"ble? Can you, Edwin, is it poſſi-
"ble, can you harbour a thought
"derogatory to the honor of your
"wife?" "What then mean thoſe
"words? Ellen will inform you of

"the

"the caution neceſſary to be ob-
"ſerved?" "I will, if you will
"have patience, unfold the myſ-
"tery." She related as briefly as poſſible the ſituation of the family, and the method by which ſhe gained entrance into the caſtle; of Julius's paternal care for the child; and of his declaration, which Eldred had alſo heard. She then aſked Edwin, would he refuſe to ſee his wife, that wife whoſe ſenſes had been conſtantly deranged for the loſs of him? and now, at the moment that ſhould crown all their joys, whether he would throw her from him, and renew their griefs afreſh? Edwin liſtened to the moving tale; and ſighing deeply exclaimed, "I dare not diſbelieve my
"Ellen: I would fain diveſt my-
"ſelf of an injurious prejudice: to
"your

" your protection I left her." " Yes, " my brother; but if I too had not " Julius's protection, I had been a " wanderer and a vagabond; your " wife would have ſuffered all the " brutalities attendant on war, and " your child had fell a victim to law- " leſs ruffians!" " Say no more, " dear Ellen——." At this moment the ſlave arrived to conduct them to the palace, and they quickly followed, with chearful ſteps.

The Moor was ſeated, with Julius and Alice at his right hand; and Ellen advancing, preſented Edwin, who, too ſanguine to compliment, while his idol was ſo near, met Alice, who flew into his ardent embrace, both too full to utter more than " my " adorable Alice!" " my beloved " Edwin!" Long did this ecſtacy

continue, and no one ſeemed inclined to interrupt the delicious moments: all were intereſted in their mutual happineſs. The young Edwin wiſhed to ſhare their careſſes, and they parted only to enfold by turns this precious pledge of their mutual love. Julius, whoſe feelings were all alive, enjoyed this charming ſpectacle; and when the firſt effuſions of joy appeared to ſubſide, aſked Edwin, if he willingly received his wife from his protection? Edwin was abaſhed. Julius had anticipated his thoughts, and re-aſſured him, that he delivered his wife chaſte as an angel to his boſom; that in giving her up, though he delighted in the deed, he had given a treaſure, if his own, that the world could not have purchaſed.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

Trembling with agonies of ſtrong delight,
Stood the great ſon, heart wounded with the ſight.
He ran, he ſeized her with a ſtrict embrace,
With thouſand kiſſes wander'd o'er her face.
I, I am he! Oh mother! riſe! behold
Thy ſon, with twenty winters now grown old.
Theſe floods of ſorrow let us now reſtrain,
The vengeance is compleat, the murd'rer ſlain.
Soon as her eyes the welcome object met,
The guilty fallen, the mighty deed compleat;
A ſcream of joy her feeble voice eſſayed,
But Raymond's tender care her ſpirits laid.

HOMER's Odyſſey.

WE leave the now happy party ready once more to ſail for Britain; and return to the territories of the banditti. Edith, we may remember, had eſpied

her brother; it was with grief unutterable, but the words of Raynauld kept her from deſpair. She was ordered to be kept on ſo ſhort a portion of proviſion, as her nature might quickly ſink beneath the horrors of famine; a quantity of blood was alſo to be drawn from her daily, to aſſiſt in making her a ſpectacle of miſery. But Raynauld was true to his promiſe; and (ſupplied with many valuables from the Baron Arville, who, determined to ſpare nothing within the caſtle to obtain the releaſe of his children, as he emphatically called them, and if poſſible to contribute to the reduction of this infernal community) bribed many to become his adherents in ſo good a cauſe: but it was not poſſible to demoliſh quickly what had been many years in eſtabliſhing. He brought over to his views

thoſe

thoſe agents who were appointed tormenters to the unhappy priſoners, and ſome of thoſe alſo who adminiſtered the food. He indeed uſed ſome deception; he aſſured them that a very large army was coming to take them by ſurprize—that he was commiſſioned (and as a proof dealt liberally of thoſe valuables with which the baron daily ſupplied him) by thoſe who had determined on their reduction, to pardon and provide for all thoſe who would aſſiſt in the glorious enterprize, and of whoſe names and offices he was to be careful to produce a token for ſafety—that to no other would the leaſt quarter be given; alſo that the poſitive intention, when the priſoners could be enlarged, was to fire every avenue of which they had got a correct plan; and if any attempted to paſs, their armed men

would be ſo placed as to deſtroy them in whatever direction they ſhould attempt to fly. This and ſuch like diſcourſe powerfully prevailed, and Raynauld, by degrees, got the fetters from the priſoners; their allowance was ſecretly enlarged; and the Druid gave Raynauld directions for bringing ſeveral ſpecifics which ſoon cleanſed and healed the wounds of many; all of whom ſwore in ſecret to obey whatever they were directed to perform.

A few months elapſed, and Raynauld had provided moſt of the priſoners with arms. Edith had nightly the company of Raymond and her brother. She feared much, in the emaciated and weak ſtate of Leodine, to inform him of the exiſtence of Iſabella, and thought ſo pleaſing a reſerve would well reward his conſtancy and

and love. Edith rejoiced that ſhe had been brought to this houſe of woe, ſince ſhe found her brother and friend were of its unhappy inhabitants.

One midnight, when, through the humanity of Raynauld, the cries and groans of the wretched were turned to eaſe, and the great body of the priſoners were locked in the arms of ſleep, Raymond, Leodine, Edith, and Raynauld, being met to concert means, and congratulate each other on the pleaſing proſpects which were opening on them, they were ſuddenly alarmed by a tremendous noiſe, which ſhook the vaſt fabric that contained them; and though they had frequently experienced many ſhocks during their confinement, and which conſiderably encreaſed the horrors of it, yet, in no inſtance, had it ever equalled this. They looked at each other with the

ſtrongeſt marks of fear, and Edith was but ill ſupported in the arms of Leodine. A ſecond ſhock threatened them with being buried beneath its craſh: but inſtantly the apartment, which was of the Gothic ſtructure, was ſuddenly filled with a light ſurpaſſing that of the ſun. Raymond, who was leaſt daunted, now ſtood erect, expecting ſome great event, and at a part of the tapeſtry, at the further end of the apartment, he ſaw a figure apparently above the human form, completely armed, with one hand extended towards the wall, the other beckoning to Raymond, who immediately obeyed the awful ſummons; but on his near approach, the ſpectre, ſtill pointing to the wall, with a third ſhock diſappeared, and with him the light which had accompanied him. Raymond, in the utmoſt aſtoniſh-

ment,

ment, ſtill kept to the part through which the ſpectre vaniſhed, and Leodine and Raynauld, with the trembling Edith, approached him with their taper, which Raymond ſeizing, examined the tapeſtry on the wall, and found the ſtory of ſome great atchievement by the figure immediately repreſented that he had juſt ſeen. "Some mighty myſtery, doubtleſs," cried Raymond, "is enveloped; and "which, with the aſſiſtance of Hea-"ven, we will endeavour to diſco-"ver." They removed the tapeſtry, and examined cloſely beneath; and at length perceived a door had been ſo contrived as not to be diſcernable by common ſearch; but the morning beginning to dawn, they judged it moſt prudent to retire, and to purſue the diſcovery at the return of night; alſo to leave Edith in her own cell,

and if poſſible to bring the Druid to their party. They took an affectionate leave of each other, and retired to their ſeparate deſtinations, full of ſuſpence reſpecting what they had witneſſed.

Raymond, recollecting the noble reſolutions of a devoted victim, which they ſaw at their firſt entering, and whoſe manly ſpeech prevented their releaſing him by butchering a lovely youth in his ſtead, thought he would be a valuable acquiſition to their nocturnal ſociety. He imparted his wiſhes to Raynauld, who promiſed to fulfil his deſires if poſſible; and accordingly he loſt no time. He ſoon found the perſon deſcribed by Raymond; alſo, that he was of the number who had ſworn to obey all the inſtructions of Raynauld. Egbert was the

the name of this priſoner; he had been the chief of a large portion of Britain; but the ſame war that had partly deſtroyed the houſe of Arville, had totally demoliſhed his, himſelf being the only ſurvivor of the family. It appeared by indubitable proofs, that his youngeſt ſon had ſurvived the fatal battle, and had been taken by this mercileſs band, though unknown to each other; but ſome circumſtances had tranſpired which proved the youth who ſuffered to have been that beloved ſon. To Egbert therefore Raynauld imparted what had happened, and their wiſh that he would aſſiſt them with his preſence and advice. It was fixed; and night arriving, they were cautiouſly conveyed to this dreadful apartment. Edith willingly was not of the party; but fears for their ſafety prevented her benefiting from the re-

lief that nature intended, and night ſhould have brought her. They remained not long before a noiſe louder than thunder again ſhook the foundations; and the ſpectre, in the ſame attitude as before, made its tremendous appearance. They immediately repaired, the Druid advancing firſt, to the pointed place; and in a ſolemn voice demanded, why he appeared to them; and if it were in the power of mortals to revenge his wrongs? A clap of thunder accompanied the anſwer, as follows: "To Raymond and "Egbert it remains to revenge my "death! The aſſiſtance of you and "your friends will be of no avail: "your company will not, however, "prevent their accompliſhing my "will; but take no other; and on "pain of inſtant deſtruction conceal "from every one but thoſe preſent,

"what

" what you now ſee and hear. This
" place is where you muſt begin. I
" am not at liberty to inform you,
" but it will be diſcloſed as you pro-
" ceed. To-morrow night be here.
" I will not alarm you by my pre-
" ſence. The myſtery, as was ſaid,
" by degrees will unfold, and you
" will be the ſaviour of all the miſer-
" able beings, who have long ſuffered
" here. One thing more is all I dare
" inform you, that your humanity
" muſt not ſpare one foul, but thoſe
" who may before this day's cloſe
" combine with Raynauld, except
" the priſoners." A lambent flame aroſe round his feet; and turning his back to them, with another ſhock, he diſappeared. They all plainly beheld on his back, the gore which ſeemed to ſtream from his head, cover the whole body. They commented each

his

his own opinion on what they had now beheld; and after a ſolemn ſervice, in which all fervently joined, they parted. Raynauld had got a commiſſion, which humanity made him wiſh to extend; and he was indefatigable in perſuading all he dare venture on, to join in a plan for their deliverance: many ſubſcribed; indeed all to whom he communicated his ſcheme.

During the time their mock king, Dunſtan, and all thoſe of his clan, whom he denominated courtiers, were rioting; and in luxurious enjoyments, drowning reflection, Raynauld had uſed ſome efforts to engage a part of their women; and of thoſe who were of the plain part of the community with their children he had not a few. The laſt fatal night was come, in which

which the doom of the others were fixed; and the appointed agents were met to begin the myſterious plan of their emancipation from this ſcene of bloody tyranny. To their no ſmall aſtoniſhment, they no ſooner approached the aperture, than it flew open, and diſcovered a long and dark paſſage, which they immediately entered, and proceeded to the termination of it, when it opened into a vault of an extenſive magnitude, round which were many urns and vaſes, and cheſts of incredible ſtrength. Raymond, on turning his head, obſerved a light playing on the wall, which he pointed out, but which none but Egbert and himſelf obſerved. They approached it; and it diſappearing, they obſerved another door; which, on their bare touch, flew open; this they alſo entered, and found it contained

tained bones of human make: they examined the ground, and obſerved it had been opened to a great length; and on further inſpection they found an iron inſtrument, which proved of infinite ſervice in digging. They ſoon diſcovered ſome armour, and proceeded cautiouſly. In removing the earth near them, they found a body perfectly coinciding with the appearance and the figure on the tapeſtry. They were at no loſs to ſuppoſe this had been the lord of the caſtle, and that he had been murdered, the body appearing as if he had been recently depoſited there. A bloom of health ſhone in the countenance; and on raiſing it, they beheld on the head a deadly wound, from which the blood flowed afreſh. They ſtretched it on the ſurface; and examining the arms, for the body was complete in armour,

they

they diſcovered thoſe of Raymond and of Egbert. Aſtoniſhment ſeized each, and they ſtood aghaſt, looking at each other. The Druid and Leodine, who were not aware of this, with more preſence of mind, begged them to proceed, which, recovering from their ſtupor, they ſoon obeyed. They found a manuſcript in a gold cover, inlaid with precious ſtones, and a key, of exquiſite workmanſhip, faſtened to a golden chain, with a chryſtal locket, and a picture of a lady of extraordinary beauty. They opened the manuſcript, and found it contained a genealogy of the houſes of Egbert and Raymond, united by the marriage of Edmund earl of Cornwall with Elfrida Raymond of Norfolk, of whom the miniature picture was a pledge previous to their union. Thus much informed Raymond, that the deceaſed

figure

figure was no other than his father; and Egbert, that he was a younger brother of this Edmund, conſequently the uncle of Raymond. One myſtery was hence explained, viz. that it remained with them alone to revenge his death. They now began to be at a ſtand how to proceed; when the ſame light that had directed them to this cave, pointed again to another door, which alſo opened on their approach; but nothing tranſpired to fix their attention. The light ſtill kept wavering before them and led to another long and dark paſſage, which had never been explored by any preſent, nor even known, and led to a narrow damp ſtaircaſe, the light conducting them, though they knew not whither; but they were now above fear; and it continued till they thought they had gained the top of the caſtle. It

hovered

hovered over a ſmall door, and inſtantly diſappeared. They tried the door, but it did not open like the others. Raymond applied the key, the door flew open, and on a ſmall miſerable pallet they diſcovered the emaciated figure of a woman, ſtretched as if dead. They approached in ſilence; and ſoon, on examination, beheld her breathe. They were unwilling to diſturb the broken ſlumber ſhe ſeemed to ſuffer, rather than enjoy. Raymond gently approaching her with the light, fancied he beheld the features of the miniature he had juſt recovered, and wildly exclaimed, "Oh God! my mother!" His exclamation awoke her; and ſuddenly riſing, and viewing Raymond, articulated, "And can it be my ſon, my "darling Raymond?" and ſunk motionleſs again on her pallet. Raymond raiſed

raiſed her in his arms; and fondly embracing, endeavoured to reſtore her animation, which for a long time ſeemed ſuſpended, but at length ſhe happily opened her eyes to the bliſsful ſenſe of receiving the embrace of her beloved Raymond. Egbert now recollected her; and ſhe recogniſed the brother of her deceaſed lord. They wiſhed a recital of her ſuffering, but ſhe was too weak to ſatisfy them at this time; they informed her of their diſcovery, and ſhewed her the manuſcript, the miniature and key, which they had taken from the body of her huſband. They gathered ſufficient to underſtand, that ſhe was the priſoner of Dunſtan, and that to him ſhe owed all the miſery ſhe had endured.

The Druid, who carried bleſſings with him wherever he appeared, gave her

her a reſtorative, which had an immediate effect in raiſing her ſpirits; and ſhe informed them, that ſhortly after ſhe had been delivered of Raymond, Dunſtan, who was the friend of her huſband, was introduced, and treated in every reſpect as one of the family: but that ſoon he diſcloſed to her, then in the bloom of youth, his libidinous paſſion—that ſhe rejected him with ſcorn, and threatened to inform her ſpouſe of the breach of hoſpitality—that in conſequence he humbled himſelf ſo far as to acknowledge his error, and promiſed never to mention any more that which muſt ultimately end in his own confuſion and diſgrace—that ſhe pardoned him; but for the future was more reſerved than uſual; and which, ſhe imagined, proved the ground of all her troubles. Her ſon began to grow; and Edmund

mund earl of Cornwall, her huſband, placed him with a near relation to learn the art of war. Her huſband and herſelf lived happily, till the depredations of the Romans called all the lords and barons to aſſiſt in repelling them. In ſome battles they were ſucceſsful, in others they were overcome. Her lord had a caſtle, which came through her family, in a diſtant foreſt, but where ſhe had never been; it was concealed in a ſingular manner; and here he hoped to have placed her in ſafety. "This "caſtle," ſaid ſhe, "which is now "my priſon, was deſtined by my be-"loved Edmund for my preſervation: "but, alas! I had never told him of "his faithleſs friend! We were hap-"py; and I wiſhed not to ſow a ſeed "of unhappineſs in a heart that per-"fectly adored me. I truſted to my "own

" own rectitude; and he, in an un-
" fortunate hour, made this Dunſtan
" the confident of his intentions. He
" had long forbore to inſult me by
" his offers; and I vainly hoped he
" had forgot his former paſſion for
" Elfrida Raymond. I had not ſeen
" him for a long time before our de-
" parture for this place; and we ſet
" off with a very ſmall retinue, and
" entered a kind of cavern in the fo-
" reſt which brought us to this caſtle.
" We entered by night, to evade ob-
" ſervation; but alas! we brought
" with us our deſtruction, worſe than
" a foreign enemy! We ſpent a few
" happy days; but the gloom of part-
" ing obſcured all my hope of ſafety.
" My dear lord wiſhed not to be
" thought tardy in joining his de-
" pendants in the hour of danger, and
" our farewel was for ever! Never

" ſhall

" ſhall I forget the hour that tore my
" love away. Arrayed in all the
" pomp of war, his figure above the
" common ſize, adorned with every
" manly beauty and accompliſhment,
" that could form the noble Briton,
" the warrior, or the tender huſband,
(Egbert bore teſtimony to this ef-
fuſion by floods of tears) " he at-
" tempted to take his farewel. Some-
" times he laid me ſenſeleſs from his
" arms—then would ſee me once
" more recover. Again bid a tender
" adieu; and again return to warn me
" of ſome danger, and point out a
" way to eſcape. Again we parted;
" and again he came to bid me hope
" his quick and glorious return.
" Thus did we meet and part till
" force was neceſſary to tear him from
" me. The perfidious Dunſtan per-
" formed this friendly office; and the
" pre-

" preſentiment that then pervaded
" my mind, that it was our final ſe-
" paration, has indeed been verified;
" and I believe my huſband had the
" ſame ideas. For ſome days I re-
" mained inconſolable: but my wo-
" men, of whom I had ſeveral that I
" regarded, endeavoured to comfort
" me, and by their perſuaſions we
" commenced a piece of work, which
" deſcribed a battle, in which my
" dear lord had formerly ſhone
" eminently conſpicuous. I myſelf
" wrought his figure, ſo exactly had
" I him in my mind's eye, as at the
" moment he left my longing arms.
" I deſcribed him in all the para-
" phernalia in which he left me, as I
" thought, for the field of battle:
" but, alas! he was dreſſed to meet a
" daſtardly death! Long did I con-
" template his beauteous figure, and

" long I thought the battle ere it
" terminated. At length Dunſtan
" arrived with the news of the total
" defeat of the Britons, and of the
" fall of Edmund earl of Cornwall.
" My grief was without bounds; and
" I nearly loſt my ſenſe of ſuffer-
" ings. Oh! how ſhall I relate the
" horrid afterpiece! During this
" ſtate of my mind, my women were
" removed; and at awaking, as it
" were, one morning, from a trance,
" I found myſelf faſt locked in the
" armsof the villainous Dunſtan. Oh
" God! my horror was greater than
" I can now deſcribe. I entreated
" him to plunge a dagger in my
" breaſt, rather than let me outlive
" my honour. He ſoothed me, and
" threatened me by turns. He aſ-
" ſured me of Edmund's death; and
" of his willingneſs to become my
" huſband

" huſband and protector. He ſwore
" his determination to poſſeſs me
" on any terms, and urged the ne-
" ceſſity of my preſerving my honour
" by becoming his wife. I called for
" my attendants; new ones appeared:
" and I knew not how to act. I pro-
" miſed, if he would permit me to
" have my own attendants, I would
" endeavour to comply: to this he
" objected; and I determined rather
" to die than give way to all his ty-
" rannical decrees. He at laſt con-
" ſented that I ſhould chooſe one,
" which, on condition that I would
" give him a final anſwer in a few
" days, ſhould attend me. I re-
" luctantly conſented; and Elwina,
" my favourite maid, was ſoon in my
" preſence. She found me in tears
" deeply bewailing my unhappy de-
" ſtiny, to have loſt the huſband of

" my warmeſt affections, and to be
" compelled to receive one my ſoul
" abhorred; though then I little ap-
" prehended the ſtrong reaſons I had
" to hate him. I diſcovered through
" my own unhappineſs that of El-
" wina. I aſked the cauſe of her
" grief." " Ah! my dear lady, you
" will not wonder at my grief, when
" you are acquainted with its ſource.
" Fain would I conceal from you, if
" poſſible, the horrid tale: but what
" I have now learnt from Dunſtan,
" that he means to poſſeſs you; and
" on a promiſe forcibly obtained
" from me to perſuade you to accept
" him as a huſband, am I permitted
" to attend you. I thought it a duty
" to you, my late lord, and myſelf
" to warn you of the danger; and
" think it no crime to break vows in
" a cauſe like this." " Speak out,
" Elwina,

" Elwina, nor fear to warn me. I " am already diſhonoured; and only " wait your friendly counſel, whe- " ther to accept the deſpoiler of my " fame as a huſband, or bury a dag- " ger in my heart?" " Heavens!" cried ſhe. " What do you tell me? " has Dunſtan thus accompliſhed his " infernal purpoſe? Reject him: but " never let him triumph in your " death. Let not the guilt of ſuicide " tarniſh your unſpotted fame. You " ſtill are virtuous; and Heaven will " in its own time puniſh the mur- " derer of your huſband." " What! " cried I, in an agony of deſpair, is " Dunſtan the murderer of my Ed- " mund? Oh! tell me all, that my " already burſting heart may break, " and rid me of this load of woe!" " Patience," ſhe replied; " and I " will inform you. Eddy, the fa-

" vourite of Dunſtan, long ſince won
" my heart; and, I believe, loved me
" with affection. He is now returned
" with Dunſtan; and in pure friend-
" ſhip for you, and to ſhew his con-
" fidence in me, has revealed the par-
" ticulars of this diabolical tranſac-
" tion. When my lord was torn from
" you by Dunſtan, he ſat down in an
" anti-room, and wept long; Dun-
" ſtan ridiculing his unmanlineſs, and
" almoſt accuſing him of cowardice,
" which, at length, rouſed him from
" his ſtupor." " I would fain, my
" friend," ſaid he! " before I leave
" this caſtle, to which I fear I never
" ſhall return, ſhew you where my
" treaſure is concealed, and where,
" if the Romans ſhould ſubdue us, it
" is probable they would never ven-
" ture; and in truſt for my wife and
" my ſon Raymond I put it in your
" power,

" power, depending on your friend-
" ſhip, if I die, to bring my ſon
" here, and conceal him, with his
" mother. The ſubterranean caves
" will, in caſe of need, protect you
" all from danger." " He imme-
" diately ſhewed him a private door;
" Eddy ſhewed it to me alſo; it was
" directly under where we placed the
" figure of my lord Edmund. He ac-
" companied them; and was brought
" into a cave, where a number of
" urns, vaſes, and cheſts were placed,
" which my lord informed them was
" full of precious treaſure; and while
" he ſtooped to ſhew him a particu-
" lar cheſt, the villain, with his broad
" ſword, laid open his head, and he
" fell ſenſeleſs to the earth. He then
" turned to Eddy, who was almoſt as
" ſenſeleſs as my lord, and wielding
" his ſword at him, threatened to diſ-

" patch him. Inſtantly he fell on
" his knees, and on a promiſe of ſe-
" creſy, Dunſtan granted him his
" life; and made him aſſiſt in dig-
" ging a hole, in which they laid him.
" He has ſince in vain endeavoured
" to find the place through which he
" paſſed; and though they are cer-
" tain as to the exact ſpot, they can-
" not find any entrance. As ſoon as
" the deed was accompliſhed, they
" made another way from the cave,
" and thence departed into the foreſt;
" and Eddy ſays, that the night or
" two ſince they returned, my lord
" has appeared to Dunſtan: but that
" he is determined to marry, and then
" carry you from hence." " Dur-
" ing this long narration I ſat un-
" moved; grief and horror had, as it
" were, petrefied me; and I ſtill
" thought Elwina talking. She at
" length

" length ſaw my ſituation, and en-
" deavoured to rouſe me: but all in
" vain. I had a perfect recollection
" of all I had heard; but tears and
" uttefance were denied me. I con-
" tinued ſome days in this ſtate, till
" the preſence of Dunſtan brought
" the agonizing ſounds freſh to my
" memory, and awoke me from my
" torpid ſtate. He aſſailed me with
" tears and proteſtations of unal-
" terable love; and I exclaimed,
" Have you not ſeen Edmund, my
" dear and murdered lord? Yes!
" and he will haunt your guilty ſoul,
" till his blood is expiated by yours."
" His colour changed, his knees faul-
" tered, and he fiercely cried, " What
" demon have you ſeen?" " Enough
" to certify that you are a villain,"
" cried I. " Here, take my life.
" You have murdered my huſband,

" and dishonoured my person; now
" compleat the bloody deed; and be
" assured your life will be henceforth
" a terror to yourself." He left me,
" threatening the bittereſt vengeance,
" which I fearleſsly awaited. But
" inſtead of ſuffering only what would
" have releaſed me of my miſery, I
" had the additional torment of loſ-
" ing my faithful Elwina, whom I
" have never ſince beheld. I was
" conveyed to this tower, and a por-
" tion of bread and water is regularly
" brought me. I frequently received
" viſits from the wretch, who was
" the deſpoiler of my peace; but,
" thank Heaven, always was able to
" repel his infernal wiſhes. It is
" ſome years now ſince I have ſeen
" him. I frequently hear the diſtant
" ſounds of martial muſic, but till
" now have never ſeen a human form;

" except

"except a ſavage or two that have "brought me my ſcanty meals." Here the unhappy lady pauſed, and reciprocal tears found vent from all their eyes. At length, mutual congratulations, on the proſpect of liberty, reanimated them; and they determined on removing Elfrida the next day to the Baron Arville's, which Raynauld accompliſhed, with the aſſiſtance of Raymond, whoſe key, Elfrida informed them, was a maſter key of the whole building. Of this they availed themſelves, and ſoon found a new and nearer way to quit the foreſt than any they had before diſcovered.

THE Baron Arville and family received with joy the unhappy Elfrida, and the baron adviſed the quick reduction of this horde of villains; yet

caution was neceſſary in order to preſerve the lives of their friends. The innocent Edith was ſtill in her cell, though ſhe felt not the anguiſh that had been the lot of others. Arville Caſtle had been drained of every ſpecies of arms to facilitate the event, and Raymond and Egbert, with Leodine and the Druid, ſpent their days and nights in planning the ſcheme of their deliverance. The caſtle of Dunſtan was quiet from the ſupernatural noiſes and appearances, which was no ſmall joy to the ſuffering inhabitants of it; but they did not permit this to reach the ears of its maſter. New diſcoveries were daily made of the riches of this caſtle, by means of Raymond's key, which Dunſtan had long coveted, but which providence prevented him from obtaining. Indeed, while he continued in the caſtle, the

form

form of Edmund was continually in his ſight; and he ſoon found another adjacent retreat.

It may be proper to remark, that on his return to the caſtle he had procured a ſet of ruffians to whom he had promiſed a portion of that plunder, which it was never in his power to obtain; that, hardened as he was in iniquity, he had by degrees increaſed his banditti, till they had arrived at this fearful pitch, and had made the immenſe foreſt of Edmund lord of Cornwall their boundaries. It was indeed ſingularly planned by nature for concealment; and after his poſſeſſing himſelf of it, and forming the wretched community we have deſcribed, it was wonderfully improved by art. The caſtle, from its frightful nocturnal viſits, of a far different nature from

from thoſe which made the diſcovery to Raymond, who was doubtleſs appointed by Heaven for the purpoſe of avenging his parents wrongs, was the means of occaſioning it to be wholly quitted by the infernal Dunſtan, and his accomplices, and converted into a priſon for the unhappy victims that almoſt daily were caught by their depredations on the foreſt.

Raymond delayed the examination of his treaſures till their plan was ripe for execution; and determined that the cave where his father met his death-blow, ſhould witneſs the extermination of his murderer. The bands of ruffians were very numerous, as well as their women, and their feelings were arreſted for a ſeaſon. A various debate enſued to determine, ſince none were to be ſpared, whether to

to deſtroy them by fire or ſword. Humanity they were ordered to lay aſide; and it was a happineſs to them, that ſo many would be ſpared as were permitted. Thoſe of the women whoſe beauty had been their bane, and who were now initiated into every vice, were among the devoted victims: but it was neceſſary to ſteel their hearts againſt every ſenſation of humanity; and the finer feelings of ſenſibility were obliged to give way to a neceſſary vengeance. We will now return to Julius, who was advancing to the Britiſh ſhore, loaded with unutterable happineſs; himſelf a joyful partaker of the bliſs he had brought to perfection.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

Meanwhile the ſteady bark, with proſperous gales
Fill'd the large ſheets of her extended ſails,
Gains on the intended port: thick on the ſtrand
Like ſwarming bees the aſſembled Britons ſtand,
And Romans join'd to ſee great Julius land.
At his approach unruly tranſport reigns,
In ev'ry breaſt, and rapture fires their veins.
A general ſhout prevails, as when on high
Exploded thunder rends the vaulted ſky:
Loud acclamations thro' the valleys ring,
While to old Arville's wall th'attendants bring
The much lov'd chief.

HUGHES.

THE veſſel of Julius being now prepared for ſea, was manned with Moors; and Julius, the brothers, the happy and now convaleſcent Alice, with

with Ellen, and the young Edwin, ſet ſail with an auſpicious wind, and ſoon were landed on the Britiſh ſhore. Julius was not long at a loſs. The Roman, who was at preſent a deputy of the Britiſh iſle, provided this happy party with the neceſſary conveyances towards Arville Caſtle; alſo advanced the ranſom, which had been agreed on by the Moor, on which they returned with the ſhip, with orders for Julius's retinue to follow him by the firſt poſſible opportunity. The Moor's generoſity had exceeded their expectations. He had given the brothers their liberty without ranſom; and what ſtill ſurprized them was, that no ſooner had the ſhip arrived in Africa than immediately the domeſtics of Julius were embarked; who, after a very proſperous voyage, arrived at Arville Caſtle, whither Julius

lius and his friends had ſome time ſince arrived. The garriſon received him; but he found the caſtle deſerted and deſolate. Ellen flew to the ſecret door; but no admittance could ſhe gain. They retired to that part of the caſtle that had formerly been occupied; which alſo was impregnable. This was a myſtery which alarmed all the friends; and it was determined to ſcale the top of the caſtle, and gain admiſſion there. This was done by the help of the garriſon with difficulty; and to their aſtoniſhment, all was deſolate. They found every valuable removed; and even the furniture, that had ſtood time immemorial, greatly diminiſhed. This ſhock could ſcarcely be borne. The fears of all were, that the baron's family had been diſcovered, and perhaps murdered; and

the

the caſtle deſpoiled by the perpetrators: but Ellen, with her uſual preſence of mind, determined to viſit the cave. All were of the ſame mind; and immediately proceeded: but the day being far advanced, and the diſtance conſiderable, they were obliged to return, and defer their expedition till the next day. The night was ſpent in reſtleſſneſs and anxiety; and the morning dawn was the ſignal for their departure. They were all equally intereſted, and none could perſuade the other to remain. On their arrival at the receſs, their fears were apparently realiſed. They followed Ellen; but no mortal appearance bleſſed their longing eyes. They indeed diſcovered a number of articles which belonged to the caſtle; and Ellen found the ſituation in a much more comfortable

form

form than when ſhe quitted her beloved parents. One hope alone remained for Ellen, and that was the reſidence of the Druid; where ſhe expected to learn ſome intelligence reſpecting her dear relatives. She ſuggeſted her deſign; and Eldred and herſelf alone determined inſtantly to ſatisfy ſo reaſonable a hope. But firſt ſhe ſhewed them the entrance into the caſtle, and promiſed to uſe every poſſible ſpeed; and to return to the caſtle by the receſs. The young Edwin and Julius would fain have been of the party: but that propoſal was overruled by Eldred and Ellen, who immediately bent their way, and with ſafety arrived at the hoſpitable tree. Ellen advanced, calling on the venerable man; but was anſwered by a voice who ſternly demanded, who had dared to interrupt their privacy? The

The voice of Ellen was recogniſed by Iſabella, who flew inſtantly to her arms. But on lifting up her head, and beholding Eldred, with a violent ſhriek, fell on the earth. Raynauld was the man who had anſwered her; and ſeeing their ſituation, aſſiſted to raiſe her. Raymond and Raynauld were come to adjuſt ſome of their plan of operations, and obſerving ſome diſturbance at the entrance of the cave, firſt beheld Ellen Arville, and her brother Eldred. Aſtoniſhment ſeized on all the faculties of his ſoul, and every power ſeemed ſuſpended. All the ſtupendous and varied incidents he had encountered were trivial to that he now witneſſed, to behold the object of his tendereſt love exiſting, when ſo many years had elapſed ſince he mourned her loſs—to ſee Eldred and Iſabella, whom,

whom, till that hour, he had no conception of evermore beholding; and this, with the happy recovery of his mother, whom he neither had ſeen or heard of ſince the demolition of their houſe, now appeared as a trance from which he never wiſhed to be awakened. "It is not, cannot be real," cried he. "My ſenſes are bewilder-"ed; and may the ſweet deluſion "ever continue!" Ellen, whoſe eyes had been fixed on his, beheld his wandering, and approaching him, with great compoſure, took hold of his hand, which he neither gave, nor offered to withdraw, and tenderly ſaid, "Has Raymond forgot Ellen of Ar-"ville?" "Gracious heavens," he exclaimed; "and dare I believe my "ſenſes have not deceived me? Is "it, can it be my long loſt love?"

"I am

" I am indeed Ellen Arville," ſaid ſhe; " but preſume not to the title " of Raymond's love." " Hold, my " Ellen!" replied he. " If thou art " not my love, then am I a wretch " indeed!" and fondly embraced her. " Now," cried he, " Leodine, my " friend, I truſt ſhall ſhare my hap- " pineſs. Joy of my life," ſaid he, " bleſs me with a ray of hope, and I " am the happieſt of mortals." Ellen, deeply bluſhing, referred him to her parents deciſion, and deſired to throw herſelf at their feet. " Pardon " me, deareſt Ellen," ſaid the enraptured Raymond, " for withholding " you from their fond embraces; but " my friend Eldred, and Iſabella alſo, " I have neglected. Let me conduct " you to your parents, and to a be- " loved, but unfortunate mother,

" who,

"who, I hope, will ſoon be able to "love and congratulate you as a "daughter." He then led them to the inmoſt receſs of the cave, where ſat the baron and baroneſs Arville, adminiſtering conſolation to the once lovely, but now emaciated Elfrida Raymond, who, ſtretched on a bed of leaves, beheld her ſon advancing with the beautiful and elegant Ellen. The baron and baroneſs ſeemed to doubt their ſenſes: but Ellen ſoon diſpelled their doubts, and at their knees received their bleſſing. She informed them of the arrival of Julius; of Eldred, whom they had not yet beheld, and who would not obtrude too quick on their preſence, leſt the joy ſhould overpower them; alſo of the Edwins, both ſon and grandſon. Never did the moſt ſplendid palace exhibit a ſcene of joy equal to this. Raynauld

looked on with wonder and aſtoniſhment; and Raymond, preſenting his beloved Ellen to both of their delighted parents, begged them to grant their concurrence to his union with his adorable Ellen, whom he had ſo long lamented dead; with which they all chearfully complied; declaring, that nothing could give them more real joy than thus uniting their families by ſo dear and cloſe a connection.

RAYNAULD now hinted to Raymond the neceſſity of haſtening back; and Eldred, who, after receiving the careſſes of his affectionate parents, and the ſweet effuſions of real friendſhip from Raymond, had learnt a brief account of his ſituation and intentions, alſo that his dear Edith was in the ſame horrible confinement, would fain have returned with them; but the

the attempt being deemed highly dangerous, and it being alſo expedient that he ſhould attend the family to the caſtle, he deſiſted. The party remained in this cell on account of aſſiſting the unhappy inhabitants of the haunted caſtle, little expecting ſuch an happy termination as had now occurred by the releaſe of the lady Elfrida, and her diſcovery of her beloved ſon Raymond, who now, with his new companion, departed, with more real joy than he had ever experienced, promiſing to meet Eldred at the cell the following night, and with the utmoſt raptures, preſently communicated happineſs to his beloved friends, Leodine and Edith. The joy which each felt at the knowledge of the exiſtence of Eldred and Iſabella was almoſt beyond the power of their belief: but the uncommon

ſcenes they had experienced ſo lately, appeared altogether viſionary.

The now happy Arville family returned to their receſs, where Julius, the Edwins, and Alice were anxiouſly waiting the return of Eldred and Ellen; and another affecting and intereſting interview took place between thoſe affectionate parents and long loſt children. No human bliſs could exceed theirs. Julius, who was as good as great, fondly participated in all their joy, which was increaſed by a knowledge of the mother of his valuable friend being reſcued from villainous tyranny; and declared his readineſs to collect a Roman legion, which he could eaſily procure, and which was already in Britain, to aſſiſt his garriſon and the united efforts of the impriſoned friends, to exterminate the

the deteſted horde deſcribed to him from the face of the earth; and the brothers and Julius were determined to propoſe at their next meeting the neceſſity, for all their happineſs, to haſten the execution of their plan. The day was ſpent in reſtoring the caſtle of Arville to its former ſtate for the reception of the family, and the news of the reſtoration of the baron Arville brought them a number of their own vaſſals to welcome and aſſiſt them.

At night the baron, his ſons, and Julius attended at the Druid's cell, and met thoſe friends, whoſe intereſt was dear to all, namely Raymond, Leodine, and the Druid, attended by the faithful Raynauld. The offer of Julius was thankfully received; and it was agreed, as ſoon as the Romans

ſhould be procured, they ſhould be introduced into that part of the caſtle which had not been diſcovered by the infernal Dunſtan; conſequently, no ſcouts could be ready to give the alarm. Thoſe priſoners confined were previouſly to be conveyed to a diſtant part of the caſtle, while the Romans were to occupy their places; likewiſe, thoſe who had agreed to quit thoſe horrid manſions of cruelty were to be placed among them; while the united friends, headed by Raymond, and a ſtrong armed party, ſhould ſurround the apartments of the ſelf-created tyrant, and convey him to the cave, where lay the body of the murdered Edmund; previous to which the cave was to be hung with the paraphernalia of mourning and woe, and lights well diſpoſed to exhibit the body. There was no delay; every faculty

culty was alive, and employed in bringing about this great event.

In a few days Julius returned, with the brothers, who had accompanied him, and a force equal to the expedition. Raynauld was acquainted with it; and the following night the legions were introduced, the priſoners removed, and the whole body under arms. Raymond and his party ſurrounded the apartments of Dunſtan, and quickly made themſelves maſters of the villain. Every avenue had been carefully ſhut and guarded; ſo that no poſſibility remained of a way to eſcape. The arms were ſeized belonging to the troops of the banditti, who were locked faſt in the arms of their fair miſtreſſes, and all buried in ſleep. Alas! it was the ſleep of death! No ſooner was Dunſtan ſe-

cured, who was alſo ſleeping, than a ſignal was given for the general deſtruction, which immediately commenced, and horrible was the ſlaughter: over which we will draw a veil, leſt pity ſhould arreſt our feelings, and juſtice be condemned.

Dunstan, to his ſurprize and horror, was placed in his car, as it has been obſerved, that he could not walk, and conveyed to the apartment where Raymond firſt beheld the ſhade of his father. Here they no ſooner entered, than a peal more terrible than thunder ſhook the foundation of the caſtle; and the ſame tremendous light appeared, and in it the murdered form of Edmund lord of Cornwall—to Dunſtan his back firſt appeared, and the ſtreaming blood ſeemed to flow copiouſly. Dunſtan, with

with the moſt horrid cries, would have hid his guilty head from the deadly ſight; but his attendants, who were with him, were alſo unable to aſſiſt him, and equally terrified at what they now beheld. The phantom took its ſtation againſt the tapeſtry, and Raymond approaching bent the knee, and exclaimed, "Behold, my mur-
"dered lord and father, I have thus
"far obeyed your command; and am
"now about to expiate your blood,
"by taking that of this falſe friend."
"'Tis well, 'tis well," replied the apparition, in a fearful voice; "too
"long has he tyrannized, and mur-
"dered many innocents. Give him,
"my ſon, a ſignal wound; but let
"the injured priſoners wreak a praiſe-
"worthy vengeance on him. He
"has been the bane of thouſands.
"In a ſhort time thou ſhalt meet thy

" eternal reward." On ſaying this, with the ſame tremendous ceremony, he diſappeared. They immediately removed the tapeſtry, and conveyed the wretch to the cave of death. Raymond now ordered the maſs of priſoners to attend, and aſſiſt at the neceſſary, but bloody expiation. Dunſtan, on beholding the body, cried, " Now indeed is the day of retribu-" tion! Long have I deſerved this " fate! I dare not repine under it. " From you, Raymond, I could have " wiſhed not to have experienced " this blow. I wiſhed you to partake " of my crimes, that by my friendly " offices to you, I might have re-" trieved, in ſome degree, a quietus " for a wounded conſcience. One " thing only I can now offer. On " the ſummit of the caſtle, in an " apartment near the north turret,

" you

" you will find the body of your un-
" happy mother: I know not, if
" dead or living. I loved her; and
" to that misplaced affection, I owe
" all the wickedness of my life. I
" will confess I murdered my friend,
" your father, entirely to possess her:
" but she was chaste as lovely; and
" though I forcibly dishonoured her,
" I would gladly have retrieved that
" transaction by becoming her hus-
" band." " Enough!" said Ray-
mond: " but my mother, though she
" has suffered years of anguish, is
" still able to rejoice in my glorious
" revenge. This then I give thee as a
" token of my hatred! And now my
" fellow-sufferers avenge your own
" cause." This said, an innumerable
fight rushed on him, and by the
wounds he received, though not

quickly dispatched, he was rendered a sight of horror, and suffered long the torments he had so often and wantonly inflicted on others.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

Let families, long ſtrangers to delight,
Whom wayward Fate diſperſed by me, unite;
Here live, enjoying life: ſee plenty, peace;
Their joy increaſing as their ſons increaſe.
Rich in good works, he others wants employ;
He gives the widow'd heart to ſing for joy:
To orphans, priſoners, ſhall his bounty flow,
The weeping family of want and woe.

SAVAGE.

THE death of Dunſtan, and the extermination of all his accomplices in villainy being now compleated, his body was removed from the cave, and exhibited to all the ſurvivors, who had ſo long borne his cruel chains. The women too, and children; that is, ſuch as were not allowed the privileges

vileges of thoſe who were ranked in the claſs of beauties, and who were initiated into all the luxuriant vices that ever diſgraced a ſeraglio; were included in the number preſerved from ſlaughter; they conſiſted of the unfortunate wives of the banditti, whoſe care alone was to perform the drudgery for the reſt, and rear the children till they were old enough to be taken from them, for the baſe purpoſes of Dunſtan. Theſe were now at liberty, though totally at a loſs for future means of ſubſiſtence: however Raymond ſoon diſpelled their fears: but he had no immediate plan. The priſoners were ordered by Raymond to make themſelves as comfortable as circumſtances would admit, till means could be deviſed for their proper enlargement or ſettlement. The news was quickly conveyed to Arville Caſtle;

tle; and as the Caſtle of Deſpair abounded with excellent horſes, thoſe of the men who had been confined, and able, had an offer of taking each a horſe, and departing or ſtaying at their own pleaſure. Some who had lately been taken, gladly embraced the offer of flying to their friends, and relieving them from the fears, which muſt have been many, for their welfare. Others, who had ſuffered years of torment, had no place they knew; nor any friends to apply to; or where to lay their heads: theſe were glad of an aſylum, and Raymond aſſured them of quickly alleviating all their various wants.

THINGS were thus in train, when all the Arville family arrived to congratulate the ſufferers on the reſtoration of their liberty. The dead had been

all

all carried into the foreſt, and buried, where they had formerly committed ſuch vile enormities. Leodine now firſt beheld his adorable Iſabella, who before had communicated his faithful attachment and wiſhes to her parents, and who now preſented her to him as the moſt unequivocal proof of their tender and ſincere regard. Iſabella, having taught herſelf to love the preſerver of her father, received his embrace with bluſhing tenderneſs, and welcomed him to their happy party. Edith was received with the moſt ardent expreſſions of joy by the baron and baroneſs, who would have knelt at her feet to implore a pardon for permitting her to leave them: but when ſhe reminded them how alone through that circumſtance the emancipation of ſo many innocent people, and the extermination of thoſe whoſe

future depredations were now intirely prevented; and in addition to all, that it had been so completely happy as to rescue her brother and friend from the same ignoble fetters, they were compelled to acknowledge the powerful interference of Providence, whose ways are indeed unsearchable; and they jointly adored the Supreme for thus manifesting his power in their deliverance. They now presented Edith to Eldred, having also learnt his passion for her, as the best gift Heaven could bestow; and as a reward sufficient to recompence him for all his suffering. Thus were all doubts and fears dispelled from the bosoms of these amiable unfortunates, now about to experience new life.

They now explored the castle, and found immensity of riches, which they deter-

determined to remove for the preſent to Arville Caſtle, as they meant not to take up their reſidence here. The ſtores of Dunſtan were all brought forth, and their value was great beyond conception: they were expoſed, and all claims allowed to be made. Many owned their own property; and of that which remained an equal diſtribution was made among thoſe unfortunate people. The wines and fruits, with corn, and other neceſſaries of life, they were to partake, till their final ſettlement ſhould be eſtabliſhed. The lady Elfrida, than whom none experienced more joy with the kind attention of the amiable Arvilles, ſoon recovered her health and beauty. Her age was now about thirty-five; and when married to Edmund, ſhe was a beauty of the firſt rate. Her ſon and Ellen were her idols; and ſhe was never

happy

happy when abſent from them. The treaſures of Edmund, now Raymond's, were brought to Aryille Caſtle; and their immenſe value aſtoniſhed the beholders. A rich ſelection was made, and preſented by Raymond to his friend Julius, as a teſtimony of his gratitude to him for the part he had taken, and for the preſervation of Alice and her ſon, who now beheld him with the warmeſt effuſions of reſpectful love. Edwin too revered him as though he had been an angel; and Julius felt himſelf ſo happy that he determined on ſettling in Britain: for which purpoſe he ſent his confidential ſervants to Rome, to diſpoſe of, and remove his property to Britain; he alſo obtained leave from the ſenate for this purpoſe.

We return now to the caſtle of deſpair, as it had been emphatically named. Egbert, who had been very active in fulfilling the commands of his murdered brother, and had laid a large claim on the plunder of Dunſtan, now offered to retire: but Raymond, who transferred the affections due to his father on his uncle, intreated him to accept the caſtle as his own, offering, at the ſame time, if he found his own eſtates deficient, to ſupply what was needful to ſupport his dignity. "Alas!" ſaid he, "for "whom ſhall I now live? my ſon "ſuffered on the tremendous and in-"fernal pile of Dunſtan; and with "him were buried all my future proſ-"pects. I would fain retire to ſome "dreary cell; there commence a "hermit's life, and ceaſeleſsly mourn

"the

"the untimely death of my much "loved ſon." Elfrida and Raymond kindly endeavoured to rally him out of ſuch auſtere notions, while they aſſured him, that they ſhould appropriate to the memory of Edmund, and the ſon of Egbert, a conſiderable portion of time, for bewailing their untimely deaths, before they ſhould conſummate thoſe joys which were in ſtore for them. Accordingly a day was ſet apart, and the remains of Edmund were depoſited in a caſe of ſilver, ornamented with precious ſtones, and inlaid with gold: and ſtrange to relate, notwithſtanding the body appeared before to have been new murdered, it now bore evident marks of putrefaction. It was a funeral to which almoſt immortal honours were paid. The whole of the ſurvivors at the caſtle; all the Roman legions; the

the whole of the inhabitants residing near Arville, with all that noble family, which now were numerous indeed, attended the solemnity; they were clad in vesture of cloth enriched with the sable emblems of death. Banners and trophies were distributed in the procession, on which were displayed the eminent deeds of Edmund earl of Cornwall, and the treacherous manner of his death. A vault was built of marble, enriched with the most costly workmanship of those days. Nothing was spared that could render the spectacle grand and awful. The air was perfumed with precious odors; and for several days were solemn dirges performed, at which all assisted. The good old Druid, who was the only priest on this occasion, said, He was now content to lay down his life with resignation and joy; since this

this great event had been fulfilled. But they did not all wish his death; he had to perform, at a future day, hymeneal rites: and this was whispered in his ear by Raymond. After the funeral pomp was over, the Arvilles returned to their castle; leaving Julius, Raymond, Egbert, Eldred, and the Druid to digest a plan for the benefit of those who now looked up to Raymond for assistance and protection.

The neat cottages, where riot and luxury had for many years kept their court, were now converted into comfortable and cleanly receptions for those whose inclinations and obligations were for continuing. Offers of marriage portions were freely made to those who were willing to enter into that state; and many Romans found amiable

amiable women, with whom they were content to remain in Britain. The boys were brought up to arms; the able men, who chose not arms, or were too aged, Raymond employed to cultivate the lands that had long been neglected; and the women found sufficient employment in domestic business. Those of both sexes, and many there were, whose age incapacitated them from any labour, were rendered comfortable, the younger being appointed to attend and nurse them with carefulness, for which they were promised to be well rewarded.

After much difficulty and persuasion Egbert took possession of the castle; but he would do it only in the name of Raymond: and from that day it was called Raymond's, or The Hospitable Castle. Egbert, by his endearing

dearing manners and amiable converſation, became at length the father of the people, as Dunſtan had been the tyrant, and reigned in all their hearts. The Britons and Romans were here united in the firmeſt bonds of love and friendſhip. The community flouriſhed during a number of years, till the ferocious Danes overcame the chiefeſt part of Britain: but this did not happen in the lives of Egbert or Raymond, or their immediate deſcendants; and even when other places were deſolate, this, almoſt impregnable caſtle, baffled long their efforts.

To return to the caſtle. After the univerſal ſlaughter, Elwina, the favorite maid of the lady Elfrida, who was confined in a ſolitary room, hearing the cries of the wounded and dy-

ing, and not having ever been noticed by Raynauld, had escaped to a distant part of the castle, where she remained for some days, without sustenance, but on hearing the tumult cease, she ventured into some apartments of the castle, where she found a number of people, of whom she could gather no satisfactory information: not understanding, from her close confinement, the nature of the castle, or the way its inhabitants lived; bread and water had been indeed punctually served; but she could never learn the least jot or tittle of her mistress, or companions. She however procured food different to what she had formerly; and at the celebration of the funeral she espied her beloved lady. Joy almost bereaved her of her senses; and it was some time before she was recognised by Elfrida, so emaciated,

and

and altered was her figure; but with unfeigned joy she pressed her to her bosom, saying, "Now indeed is my "joy compleat, my friend, my pre- "server. You saved me by your "counsel and information from the "rapacity of our common enemy; "and like me, I fear, have suffered; "but by the interposition of Heaven, "and the virtue of my son, I trust we "shall yet find many days of happi- "ness in reserve for us." Raymond embraced her with affection; and declared he did not know a wish ungratified, but the union of those, as well as his own, whose interests were equally dear to him. Elwina gradually recovered her health; and stood astonished at the iniquity she was now informed of, as well as the surprizing incidents which happily procured for many the liberty they now enjoyed.

THE caſtle was now intirely free from all thoſe nocturnal appearances; the ſpirit of Edmund was pacified; and peace, and uninterrupted happineſs reigned around them. Raynauld, who acted ſo noble and faithful a part, was the received friend of all the happy pairs. The time of probation was nearly elapſed; and Raymond waited with impatience to receive the lovely hand of the heroic Ellen, who ſhone ſo conſpicuouſly in her perſon, her manners, and every part ſhe undertook; and the Druid ſealed their bliſs: Ellen nothing loth to receive for her huſband the youth for whom ſhe was not aſhamed to confeſs the dangers ſhe encountered, through "dreary nights, and ſtormy days." Leodine alſo received his adorable Iſabella; and no modern coquetry concealed the joys of the enraptured

fair

fair one. Eldred and Edith made the happy trio; and the lady Elfrida, the baron and baroneſs, with their univerſal friend Julius, Raynauld, and Elwina, poſſeſſed a joy which was truly unutterable. The ſeeds of ſorrow were nearly eraſed, as the manes of Edmund were now evidently appeaſed. The lady Elfrida had a pleaſing melancholy that pervaded her; and if poſſible, increaſed her lovelineſs. The whole party were become ſo neceſſary and dear to each other, that a ſeparation could not be thought of; and Arville Caſtle being ſpacious, it was determined to be the reſidence of all. Alice continued to enjoy her health and ſenſes, and was an ornament to her ſex; ſhe alſo ſoon preſented Edwin with a young Alice, to perpetuate her name. Young Edwin grew, and lived in the heart of every

one. Thus from misery the most extreme and complicated, were these amiable people tried, proved, and extricated: which should serve as an instance to suffering integrity, that though the ways of Providence are mysteriously intricate, yet all things work together for good to those whose trust is in the Supreme Disposer of events. We see here an amiable family, torn apparently asunder by contending powers and adverse incidents, all preserved by the most unlooked for and unexpected accidents—All dead, as it were, to each other; father, mother, brothers and sisters, husbands, wives, and lovers separated through years of storms and fiery trials, yet, at last, none of them suffered to be hurt. Alice's wandering intellects proved the road to all their happiness, though it was terrible in experience.

and we ſee ſuch virtue in a Roman, that would become the greateſt Chriſtian character, which will immortalize his name for ever. Before a concluſion to this piece is drawn, it will not, perhaps, be diſagreeable to our readers to preſent them with a detail of the ſufferings of Eldred and Edwin, as related to the family by themſelves, after the violent emotions of the ſingular events we have recorded were ſubſided; and joy, and peace, and love hovered over their domains.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

Ah! little think the gay licentious proud,
Whom, pleasure, power, and affluence surround;
They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
And wanton, often cruel riot waste:
Ah! little think they, while they dance along,
How many feel this very moment death,
And all the sad variety of pain!
How many sink in the devouring flood,
Or more devouring flame! How many bleed,
By shameful variance betwixt man and man!
How many pine in want, and dungeon gloom,
Shut from the common air, and common use
Of their own limbs! How many drink the cup
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
Of misery, sore pierced by wintry winds!
How many shrink into the sordid hut
Of cheerless poverty! How many shake
With all the fiercer tortures of the mind;
Unbounded passion, madness, guilt, remorse:
Whence tumbled headlong from the height of life,
They furnish matter for the tragic muse!
Even in the vale, where wisdom loves to dwell,
With friendship, peace, and contemplation join'd;
How many rack'd with honest passions droop,
In deep retired distress! How many stand
Around the death bed of their dearest friends,
And point the parting anguish!

THOMPSON.

How many slaves in Afric's burning climes
Waste their full strength, unconscious too of crimes.

THE noble and illustrious families now assembled round a cheerful fire, in a winter's night, when the elements

were pouring their ſhowers, and the winds deſolating the leafleſs trees of the foreſts—while their dependants and ſervants, no leſs happy than their lords, were tuning their harps and lutes to the honour of their noble deeds, and the blithſome youths of both ſexes were nimbly footing to the pleaſing tunes of the enraptured elders, then it was that the baron and baroneſs of Arville reminded their happy ſons of their promiſe to relate their adventures; which from ſo fatal an appearance, had ſo happily terminated to all their mutual joys. They bowed aſſent; and Eldred, as the elder, thus began.

"I NEED not, my honoured father, "now apologize for what at that time "perhaps had juſtly incurred your "diſpleaſure, but will proceed to in-

"form

"form you of the friendſhip I had
"conceived for Leodine, and the ar-
"dent love that I felt for my now
"adored wife, his ſiſter. The de-
"pendant ſtate in which they were
"placed by Providence, when the
"pride of family prevailed in Britain,
"before the Roman yoke made all
"nearly equal, was a ſufficient check
"to my youthful ardor. I long adored
"the object of my tendereſt love,
"who long repelled my ſincere paſ-
"ſion; always urging the diſpropor-
"tion of our ſituations; while ſtimu-
"lated by love alone, I thought of
"little but my own gratification.
"My love was too ſincere to create a
"wiſh in me to violate the ſtricteſt
"bonds of virtue; but of family
"name and rank I deſpiſed the
"thought. Not ſo my Edith: al-
"ways afraid of offending my fa-

"mily, ſhe was tenacious to a degree
"of my honour and character: and
"when the day arrived in which you,
"my lord, ordered us to prepare to
"attend you to the field of battle, I
"hoped to remove the veil from her
"eyes, and to ſeal her mine before
"our ſeparation. Heaven only can
"tell what I felt, when I propoſed
"an immediate union to my charmer,
"and received for anſwer," "That
"Edith, the dependant on the houſe
"of Arville, would never ſo far de-
"viate from the ſtrict rules of pro-
"priety, as to involve the heir and
"hopes of his family by an indiſcreet
"marriage. Dearly as I love you,"
ſaid ſhe, "and would ſacrifice my life
"for your happineſs, in this I can-
"not, will not comply." "A thun-
"derſtroke had been more grateful
"to my ears than this; and I was,

"after

" after all the intreaties of which I
" was maſter, obliged to be content
" with a promiſe, that ſhe would pre-
" ſerve her heart for me alone.

" YOURSELF, Edwin my brother,
" and the friend of our youth, Ray-
" mond, it may be remembered,
" fought long by each other. I will
" not call it pride or oſtentation, to
" ſay, we performed prodigies of va-
" lour. Raymond we ſaw at your
" ſide till you fell; he then flew to
" us, and for ſome time we defended
" ourſelves againſt an hoſt of foes:
" but at laſt we alſo fell; and what
" was worſe, ſaw our valiant friend
" taken priſoner. We were wound-
" ed, but not mortally. Often indeed
" did we wiſh we had died on the
" field of honour, little expecting the

" ſuper-

" ſuper-eminent bliſs we now enjoy.
" We were ſoon diſcovered to have
" ſigns of life, and removed to a Ro-
" man tent, where we were treated
" with as much tenderneſs as we could
" expect in our ſituation. We were
" ſtrictly guarded, but ſoon reco-
" vered from our wounds; and or-
" dered, with others, to be ſent to
" Rome. We were ſhortly embark-
" ed; and what added moſt to our
" diſtreſs, was the impoſſibility to
" hear what became of our unhappy
" family. Till then I knew not of
" my brother's union with Ellen: but
" his exclamations were now dictated
" by horror and deſpair; and the
" words wife, and infant, were now
" continually articulated, though not
" in a manner to ſatisfy my doubts
" and curioſity.

" At

"At length, when his paſſions be-
"gan to ſubſide, I ſoothed him, and
"begged him to conſider me as a
"friend, as well as a brother; and
"that as unboſoming ourſelves was
"the only way to alleviate our bur-
"dens, we ſhould have no reſerves to
"each other. This, and ſuch like
"diſcourſe, brought Edwin to rea-
"ſon; and he confeſſed his love and
"union with the lovely Alice his
"couſin, and of her near approach
"to make him a father, which event
"he had daily expected. That he
"had put her under the protection of
"his ſiſter Ellen, whom alone he had
"made his confidant. Now I felt
"for the firſt time the ſuperiority of
"my ſituation. Alas! ſaid I, had
"my Edith liſtened to my ten-
"der tale, now perhaps had I alſo
"involved her, and perhaps an in-

"fant

"fant deprived of a father's pro-
"tection, even before it ſaw the
"light: how ſhould I now have ſuf-
"fered at the thoughts of her miſ-
"ery! I ſpent all my philoſophy to
"compoſe the mind of my unhappy
"brother, but in vain; I feared
"much leaſt his ſenſes ſhould ſuffer
"from the intenſeneſs of his grief:
"but an incident ſoon rouſed our
"ſleeping faculties into action. We
"had proceeded ſome days on our
"voyage to Rome, when we were
"hailed by a ſhip under Roman co-
"lours. We anſwered the ſignal, and
"lay to, to receive, as we thought,
"our guards, at leaſt that ſome one
"were coming on board to commu-
"nicate intelligence. But what was
"our conſternation, when a number
"of Moors inſtantly boarded our
"veſſel? and it being loaded with
"unarmed

" unarmed priſoners, we were in
" no condition to defend ourſelves.
" Gladly would we have fought for
" our lives, accounting the Roman
" yoke nothing, in compariſon of
" what was to be expected with theſe
" barbarians: but ſuch was the will
" of Heaven. We were all imme-
" diately chained to the bottom of
" the veſſel, and ſoon arrived on
" Africa's burning ſhore. Alas! all
" hope was now vaniſhed. We were
" carried to the market, and provi-
" dentially purchaſed by one mer-
" chant, who indeed behaved toler-
" ably well to us, and finding us
" above the common herd of ſlaves,
" gave us an appointment in his
" houſe. We taught his ſons the art
" of war, and his daughters to finger
" the lute; and our lives, as ſlaves,
" were not the worſt in Africa. We

" eat

"eat and drank well; and were en-
"couraged by our maſter in a parti-
"cular manner. This contributed to
"make the hours fly; and we enter-
"tained hopes, that if we fulfilled all
"his wiſhes in his family, a time might
"come, that he might preſent us our
"liberty. Full of theſe faſcinating
"hopes, we redoubled our care and
"diligence, and inſtructed the family
"in all that was deemed elegant or
"accompliſhed in Britain. Our maſ-
"ter and his family ſhone conſpi-
"cuouſly ſuperior to all the other
"Barbarian chiefs, or merchants, and
"very large ſums were offered to
"purchaſe us; but all were rejected;
"he grew daily more attached to us,
"and we felt, with gratitude, his fa-
"vour. He had three fine daugh-
"ters, whom we taught to ſing,
"dance, ride, and play on the in-
"ſtruments

"ſtruments that had been taken and "ſold with us. Our language alſo "they ſpoke with fluency, and grace. "But now, alas! a repetition is ne-"ceſſary, to carry on the thread of "our ſtory, which unmanned us; "and probably will excite your pity. "Our perſons, without vanity, were "rather too agreeable to theſe black "virgins for our peace: they were all "deeply enamoured with us, as we "were certainly ſuperior to their "countrymen, and all made advances "too indelicate to mention. Our "virtue, for indeed we were virtuous, "took the alarm; and if ſuch ad-"vances had been made by ladies of "our own colour, probably we might "have fell: but the colour alone ſet "us at a diſtance, that kept us ſted-"faſt in our principles of honour. "At this time finding themſelves re-

"pulſed,

"pulſed, their love became perfect
"hatred, and they conſpired the hor-
"rid plot to accuſe us to their father
"of having endeavoured to ſeduce
"them all, and even to attempt to
"uſe force. This was a blow we
"could not have conceived; but a
"worſe awaited us. The father, en-
"raged to a degree for this pretended
"inſult on his houſe, inſiſted on our
"immediately marrying two of theſe
"wretched ſiſters. To this demand
"we replied with a proper ſpirit, in-
"forming him of the true ſtate of
"the caſe; but nature pleaded with
"him to credit the aſſertion of his own
"children before European ſlaves.
"However, we peremptorily refuſed
"the offered honour, and in conſe-
"quence were to have ſuffered an
"ignominious death for the ſuppoſed
"crime we had committed; which

" "theſe

" theſe unamiable infatuated ladies
" were content to have ſeen executed.
" But we had not forgot our truſt in
" the Supreme Giver of all good;
" and to him we looked up for mer-
" cy, reſigning ourſelves to death, if
" it was his will, with becoming for-
" titude. If, ſaid we, in our devo-
" tions, we have any who want our
" natural protection left on our na-
" tive ſhore, graciouſly preſerve us
" for their dear ſakes! if not, be
" pleaſed, at this time, to remove us
" from this vale of tears, to meet
" thoſe in realms of bliſs whom we
" now deplore! So great was our
" reliance on this petition, that we
" were careleſs as to the event, fully
" believing, if our deareſt connexions
" ſurvived, that we ſhould be pre-
" ſerved at the lateſt moment from
" the jaws of impending death. Our

" hopes

" hopes were realized. We were
" brought to the place of execution,
" and multitudes were expecting the
" ſtroke that was to deprive us of
" life, when a ſlave calling out for a
" delay, preſented himſelf before our
" maſter, with a petition from the
" youngeſt daughter, praying a ſuſ-
" penſion of our ſentence; and aſ-
" ſuring her father we were indeed
" innocent. He immediately ordered
" the executioner to ſtay his hand,
" while he confronted his daughters,
" which he inſtantly did; the young-
" eſt deſcribing the particulars of
" their conſpiracy, and our teſtimony
" corroborating in every inſtance,
" we were reſcued from death. The
" Mooriſh prince, who was a witneſs
" of this ſingular event, demanded
" our price, and we were, with great
" reluctance on our maſter's part,

" ſold

" ſold to him, who finally gave us
" our liberty. We were now per-
" fectly ſatisfied, that ſome were left
" in Britain who were dear to us, ſee-
" ing our deliverance was ſo miracu-
" lous; and anxiouſly waited for the
" time that ſhould point out a way to
" eſcape. We were confined to the
" gardens, where you firſt happily
" met us; the cultivation of which,
" with other ſlaves, were our pro-
" vince.

" Now," ſaid Eldred, " my ho-
" noured and beloved friends, I have
" given you a brief account of the
" time we were ſeparated; and now,
" under Heaven, we ſee how great
" our obligations is to the great, the
" good, the noble Julius, of whom I
" have need, as alſo hath my brother
" Edwin, to claim forgiveneſs for the

" very

"very great injuſtice of our thoughts "of him, at our firſt interview. Jea- "lous of my brother's honour, I cer- "tainly, if my chains had not with- "held me, ſhould have become an "aſſaſſin to the friend of humanity, "and of our family in particular. "The ſame ſpirit took poſſeſſion of "Edwin, when Julius told him his "wife was under his protection— "little did we know the nature or "generoſity of his protection; little "did we know the extent of his "friendſhip."

Julius here interrupting Eldred, ſaid, "Stop my friend, nor blame "yourſelf for what was highly me- "ritorious. Had I been in your "ſituation, I ſhould perhaps have "acted far more deſperately. I ad- "mire your openneſs and courage; "and

" and ſhould have deemed you un-
" worthy the name of friends had you
" been leſs tenacious of your honour.
" Behold me now, an alien from my
" country, a ſolitary inhabitant in a
" houſe abounding with happineſs,
" in which I moſt joyfully partici-
" pate. Yet ſince I learn it was de-
" clared by our Great Creator, that it
" is not good for man to be alone, I
" ſolicit every one of my friends to
" be in turn intereſted in my future
" happineſs." Every eye was turned on him, and every mouth eager to expreſs their earneſt wiſh to promote a happineſs ſo dear to them. Julius then ariſing, and approaching the lady Elfrida, ſaid, " Here then reſts
" my future hopes of happineſs. My
" friend Raymond, and all the maſs
" of this happy abode, aſſiſt my en-
" deavours to gain the heart of this

" amiable lady." Raymond's coun-
" tenance brightened with joy; and
" falling on his knee before his be-
" loved parent, exclaimed, " Let
" your ſon, my honoured mother,
" thus plead in his friend's behalf;
" thus reward him, who redeemed
" your ſon firſt from ſlavery, then
" created him his friend, and pro-
" cured him riches, and honours; who
" alſo preſerved my adorable Ellen;
" and at length bleſſed me with the
" ineffable happineſs of calling her
" mine: beſides theſe, he has re-
" ſtored the family of my beloved
" wife to their rightful inheritance,
" and in ſhort has, next to Heaven,
" been our univerſal friend and ſa-
" viour." Elfrida bluſhed: but her ſon's pleading was not in vain. The Arville family united their prayers for this happy event; and Elfrida,

benignly

benignly ſmiling, preſented her fair hand to Julius. "I will not, my "lord," ſhe ſaid, "damp the uni- "verſal joy which at preſent per- "vades every heart, and for which "we ſtand alone indebted to your "virtues, honour, and generoſity, "even when your ſituation placed "you as a natural enemy to Britain. "If I can contribute to your future "felicity, it will be the pride of my "heart, and the conſtant ſtudy of my "life. I had indeed," ſhe continued, "never intended to have received "another lord, as that of my ten- "dereſt love was torn by violence "from me; but time, that healer of "ſorrows, though I have not, nor ever "ſhall ceaſe to love his memory, has "blunted its edge; and I hope, and "truſt that the great, the noble Julius "ſhall never have cauſe to complain,

"that Elfrida was indifferent to his "love. No, my lord, I will frankly con- "feſs the high eſteem and friendſhip, "almoſt bordering on love, I have "ever poſſeſſed ſince the happy time "I firſt knew you; little, however, "imagining that Julius would ever "have thought Elfrida worthy the "name of wife." "Ceaſe, fair lady," ſaid Julius, "theſe unneceſſary com- "ments; and believe, that Julius is "proud to aſpire to the honour of "your hand." The Druid who was a ſpectator of this intereſting ſcene, ſtepped forward, and urged his immediate ſervice. And informing them of a petition he had to prefer, namely, the ſuit of Raynauld to the lady Elfrida, who required, as a reward for his ſervices, the hand of Elwina; they were immediately ordered into the preſence of this noble family, and receiving

receiving the conſent of Elfrida, to their great ſurprize, was immediately united alſo. Never did Arville Caſtle abound with more heart-felt joy than this auſpicious evening; and on the return of morning the news was circulated to the ſurrounding villages and peaſantry. The weather not being favourable for out-door ſports, every avenue of this noble edifice was filled with banqueting; while ſhoutings rent the air, with "long live the "noble Julius and Elfrida!" The joy excited is not to be deſcribed. Alice, whoſe feelings were of the moſt ſuſceptible kind, had always a particular reſpect for Julius, remembering the diſintereſted and godlike love, with the extreme delicacy he ſhewed in her melancholy ſituation; likewiſe, with what joy he had reſtored her to the arms of her huſband—to ſee him

happy compleated her own. As to Raymond, his joy was indeed unutterable; to ſee his friend and his adored mother, blooming ſtill in beauty (for ſhe was caſt in beauty's faireſt mould) united in thoſe indiſſoluble bands of love and friendſhip, was to him happineſs extreme. "Now," cried he, embracing her, with rapture, "you are indeed my "more than mother, the preſerver "of our univerſal friends!" Many days were ſpent in public as well as private joy. The Roman bands in Britain, and who were now through intermarriages almoſt naturalized, partook their bounty and their joy. The whole party ſent to Egbert to prepare for their reception; and among the new community they ſpent ſome days; and general and unfeigned rejoicings reigned throughout this

once

once miſerable, but now peaceable habitation. Gifts flowed ſpontaneouſly around, and Egbert was, though laſt, not leaſt in the ardour of his congratulations.

The family, after ſome time, returned to Arville Caſtle, where they continued to live true patterns and examples of conjugal and domeſtic love. The baron and baroneſs lived to ſee their grandchildren grow, like their parents, good and amiable; and left not this world till their darling grandſon Edwin was united to the daughter of a neighbouring lord, who was beautiful and amiable as himſelf. Their eyes were cloſed by their children; and this was the firſt grief that aſſailed them after their re-eſtabliſhment at the caſtle. The Druid, who had alſo attained a good

old age, ſoon followed his friends to the peaceful manſions of the dead, to the great regret of all; but they had learnt to bow with ſubmiſſion to the divine will.

ELDRED, now baron Arville, had a lovely and numerous offspring, that inherited all the virtues of their anceſtors. Edwin and Alice had only their Edwin and Alice. But Raymond and Ellen was bleſſed with five blooming boys and an equal number of charming girls, who proved a ſolace to their declining years. Julius, and his Elfrida became the happy parents of two ſons and one daughter, all of whom intermarried with the children of Eldred and Edith. Raynauld and Elwina continued with Julius and Elfrida, and were ranked as the univerſal friends of the whole united families;

milies; they alſo had two children, who were brought up among thoſe of the caſtle, which, from the great increaſe of its inhabitants, was obliged to be continually enlarged, ſo that it actually became a ſpacious town: for ſuch was their invariable attachment to each other, that none would quit the bliſsful abode, where alone were to be found all that virtue, that happineſs, that peace, friendſhip, and harmony, which, if more generally obſerved, would conſtitute now, what we hope to enjoy in the future realms of happineſs and bliſs.

——— Hail, wedded love!
Myſterious law, true ſource of human offspring!
Here love his golden ſhafts employs, here lights
His conſtant lamp, and waves his purple wings,
Reigns here, and revels.

MILTON.

Theſe are the matchleſs joys of virtuous love.
And thus their moments fly, till evening comes,
At laſt, ſerene, and mild. When,
With many a proof of recollected love,
Together down they ſink in ſocial ſleep;
Together freed their gentle ſpirits fly,
To ſcenes where love and bliſs immortal reigns.

THOMSON's Spring.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

——— Ye fairy proſpects then,
Ye beds of roſes, and ye bowers of joy;
Farewel, ye gleamings of departed peace,
Shine out your laſt, to mingle woes with his.

THOMSON.

IT may not perhaps be wholly unentertaining to the reader to know ſomething of the hiſtory of Raynauld, who muſt be conſidered as a principal in the denouement of this Romance. He was ſon of a yeoman of the firſt claſs in Britain, who was alſo a principal merchant of thoſe days; and had fitted out his ſon Raynauld, and given him his portion, which he was conveying to a diſtant part, with an

intention to ſettle on his own account. He had in the courſe of his journey fell in with ſome travellers, who were, like him well attended; together they compoſed a formidable body, and agreed to make the tour of Britain before they parted. Edgar, a principal of the other party, had with him his family, conſiſting of his wife, five children, two brothers and a ſiſter, with a numerous retinue, his traffic was wine—Raynauld's was compoſed of military accoutrements, and various ſtuffs. They had traverſed a large track, and halting at the principal places, diſpoſed of much of their ſtock, and bartered for different commodities. They had ſpent near a year in this manner, during which time they had formed the ſincereſt friendſhip. The blooming Margaret captivated the affections of Raynauld,

and

and a ſpeedy union betwixt them was intended by all parties, as ſoon as they had fixed their reſidence. But who is equal to the deſigns of futurity? Their happineſs was all in idea; its ſun quickly ſetting, to riſe no more. They were paſſing the infernal foreſt, or rather the boundaries of that infernal crew which inhabited it, and have been deſcribed, when their number being very large, and their baggage very heavy and extenſive, they had encroached on what the robbers pleaſed to call their rights, and were therefore ſurrounded by a prodigious number of men, compleatly armed, who ſummoned them to ſurrender at diſcretion; this they determined not to do, nor to loſe their property, but at the expence of their lives: however, ſuperior force prevailed over ſuperior courage: our

party

party did wonders, but were at laſt overpowered. They fought long; Edgar and his brothers, with many ſervants of both parties, fell in the unequal conflict. Raynauld, in deſpair, kept near his beloved Margaret; but was at length forcibly taken and bound, and to his unſpeakable horror, beheld Margaret wreſted from him, and conveyed he knew not whither, with the children of his friend. His diſtreſs now rendered him terribly deſperate indeed; and he breathed the moſt dreadful vengeance on his conquerors. Alas! he then little knew the magnitude of their power, or the iniquity which he too ſoon found abounded among them. He was conveyed to a cell, and bound with heavy irons; ſtill continuing his threats of vengeance. But the damp of the place, want of food, and the great

great exertions both of body and mind he had undergone, at length accompliſhed what all their united efforts of perſuaſion could not attain —that of quietly ſubmitting to his fate. Their king uſed his endeavours long to perſuade him to join their villainous horde; long he withſtood their wiſhes; but he had experienced ſufficient of their power to ſee his own inability to extricate himſelf from their hold. A little bread and water only, ſcarce ſufficient to ſupport nature, was ſparingly given: but their offer of mercy was very urgent. They admired his courage and reſolution, and promiſed to make him a chief, or ſecond in command. This ſtaggered his virtue. He could get no information of his beloved Margaret, till he complied with their demands: he hoped every thing from it;

it; and at length, though unwillingly, took the impious oaths.

Soon after, among the women, he beheld the once charming maid he had hoped to call his own. Abashed and trembling she beheld him, while he flew to enclose her in his ardent embrace. Alas! she shrunk from him. "Oh heavens! what means "this coolness?" said Raynauld. "I "am not worthy the attention of "Raynauld," said she. "I am not "what I was, though forcibly have I "been made what I am." "Ever "dear, nevertheless, art thou to me," he replied. "I will henceforth protect "you from every ill. Chear me with "thy smiles, and they will repay my "anxiety for your safety." "Ah! "Raynauld, never suppose I can again "meet you with smiles of joy. Be-

"reft

" reft of my innocence; my brothers
" murdered; my ſiſter in this place
" of infamy—her children among
" thoſe who are deſtined to increaſe
" the miſery of the world—what joy
" can now remain? Oh that Heaven
" in its mercy had cauſed the ſword
" to pierce my ſwoln heart, and
" numbered me with my brothers!"
" Ceaſe my love, theſe complaints;"
ſaid Raynauld, " and let us not ar-
" raign Fate; but ſubmiſſively bend-
" ing to its decrees, let us endeavour
" to forget the paſt, and look only to
" the future." " May my Raynauld
" find the happineſs he expects!
" May he indeed be happy!" ſaid
Margaret. " Let us then," cried
Raynauld, " cement our long deſired
" union." " Not for worlds," ſobbed
the diſtreſſed fair, " would I become
" a wife to Raynauld, diveſted of my
" innocence.

" innocence. I truſt, ere long, to
" join my murdered friends. In that
" hope only will I drag on a miſer-
" able exiſtence. My prayers ſhall
" be unceaſingly offered up for your
" happineſs. Adieu, Raynauld! and
" ſometimes think on the unhappy
" Margaret, the victim of lawleſs li-
" centiouſneſs."

RAYNAULD was quite unmanned; when the inhabitants of their new abode advanced, and tauntingly upbraided him with effeminacy, pointing at the ſame time, to a number of thoſe hapleſs beauties we have before noticed. The unhappy Raynauld had no eyes for beauty, all were centered in Margaret; and ſhe, by an order from their chief, was hurried from his ſight. He had paſſed his inauguration, and had planned years of

happineſs

happineſs in her ſociety: but all was over. He retired full of thoſe uneaſy ſenſations, which are truly unutterable; and paſſed a ſleepleſs night. He aroſe betimes, and endeavoured to trace the place which contained his lovely unfortunate, but in vain. He enquired; and was told, ſhe had ſecured herſelf in her apartment; where, at length, he was permitted to ſee her once more, and to cloſe her eyes for ever, ill fated maid! What agonies did not Raynauld experience? He was nearly loſt with the effuſions of his grief, falling quickly into a melancholy. Dunſtan endeavoured to divert this, by cauſing a general review of his banditti, which, dreſſed from the plunder of Raynauld en militaire, made a noble appearance. An expedition was ordered, and Raynauld appointed, according to promiſe,

miſe, captain. He conducted it with much ſkill, and brought in a conſiderable booty, without any bloodſhed, which raiſed him high in favour with Dunſtan. His heart was never ſteeled againſt the ſofter feelings of humanity; but all his endeavours were to make every unfortunate priſoner become one of their ſociety, in order to avoid thoſe puniſhments which were otherwiſe inflicted. Often, in ſecret, he lamented his unhappy lot, which had thus made him an alien from ſociety; but never till the unfortunate, but happy moment that Edith was taken, had he the leaſt chance of eſcaping: ſo cloſely did their laws bind, and each other's care prevent it. When he found himſelf entrapped in the Druid's cave, all his virtue returned; and he determined, if he ever again ſaw light, to inform

inform whoever he ſhould meet of the execrable ſociety to which he belonged. He ſhewed the happy effects of that determination; and the luſtre of his innate honeſty, which had ſo long been clouded, ſhone through future years.

——— ——— ——— ——— Behold!
His near approach, the ſudden ſtarting tear,
The glowing cheek, the mild dejected air;
The ſoften'd feature, and the beating heart,
Pierced deep with many a virtuous pang, declare
The awaken'd throb for virtue and for fame;
The ſympathies of love, and friendſhip dear,
With all the ſocial offſpring of the heart.

THOMSON.

FINIS.

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